19

BORUTO

-NARUTO NEXT GENERATIONS-

Creator/Supervisor **Masashi Kishimoto** Art by **Mikio Ikemoto**

池本幹雄

I've watched *Stranger Things* through season 4. Waiting for the next season is painful. I haven't waited on a western drama series since *24* and *Game of Thrones.*

It's a special skill of no particular significance, but I have a perfect memory for characters' full names written western style. Not just the main characters and their sidekicks, but even the adversaries and bit parts, like Habib Marwan (terrorist), Vladimir Bierko (terrorist), and Michael Amador (arms dealer). Conversely, it's hard for me to remember Japanese names. Why...?

–Mikio Ikemoto, 2023

BORUTO
-NARUTO NEXT GENERATIONS-

VOLUME 19

SHONEN JUMP EDITION

Creator/Supervisor MASASHI KISHIMOTO
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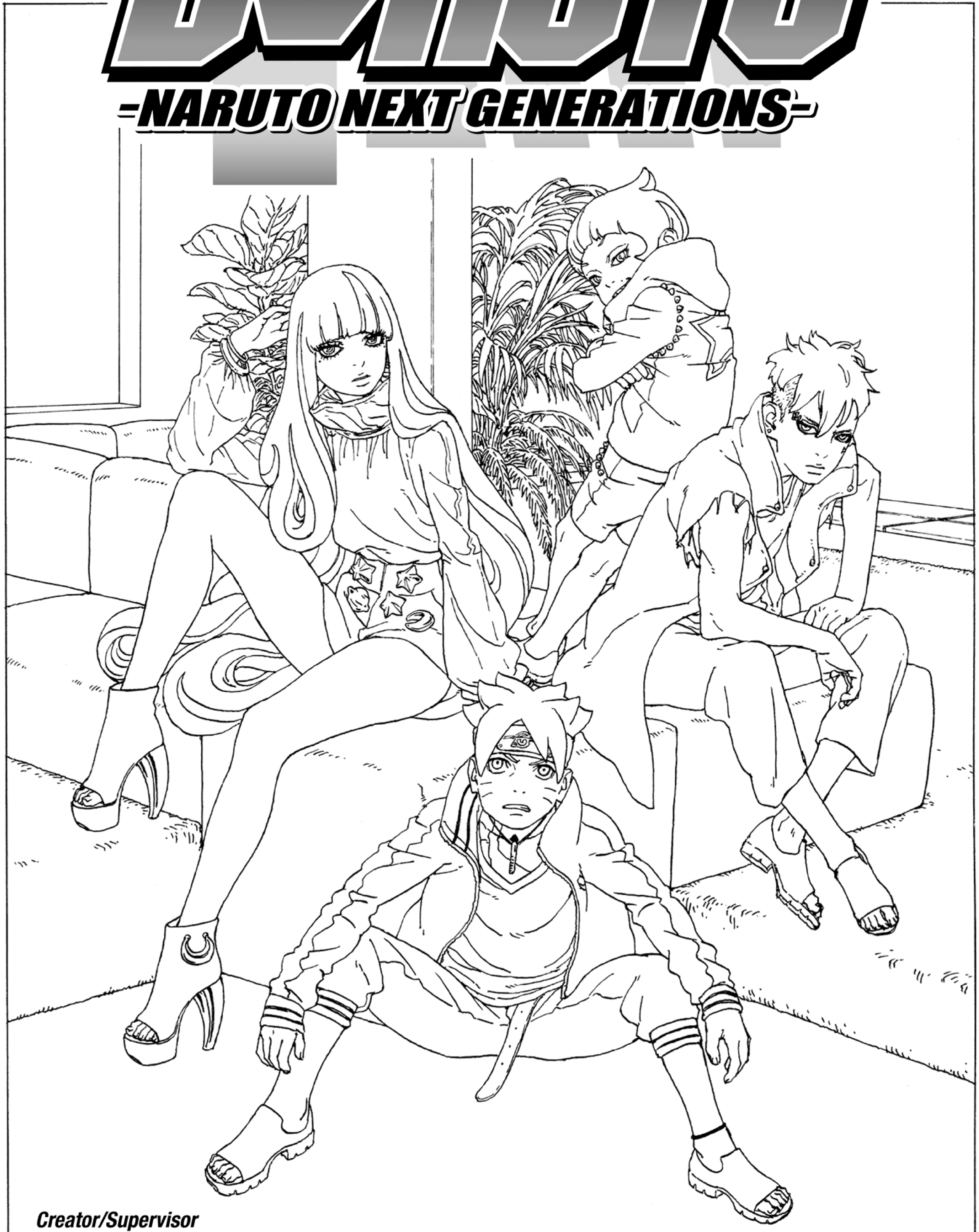
SHONEN JUMP

ratings.viz.com
RATED T TEEN

PARENTAL ADVISORY
BORUTO is rated T for Teen and is
recommended for ages 13 and up.
This volume contains fantasy violence.

BORUTO

-NARUTO NEXT GENERATIONS-



Creator/Supervisor

Masashi Kishimoto

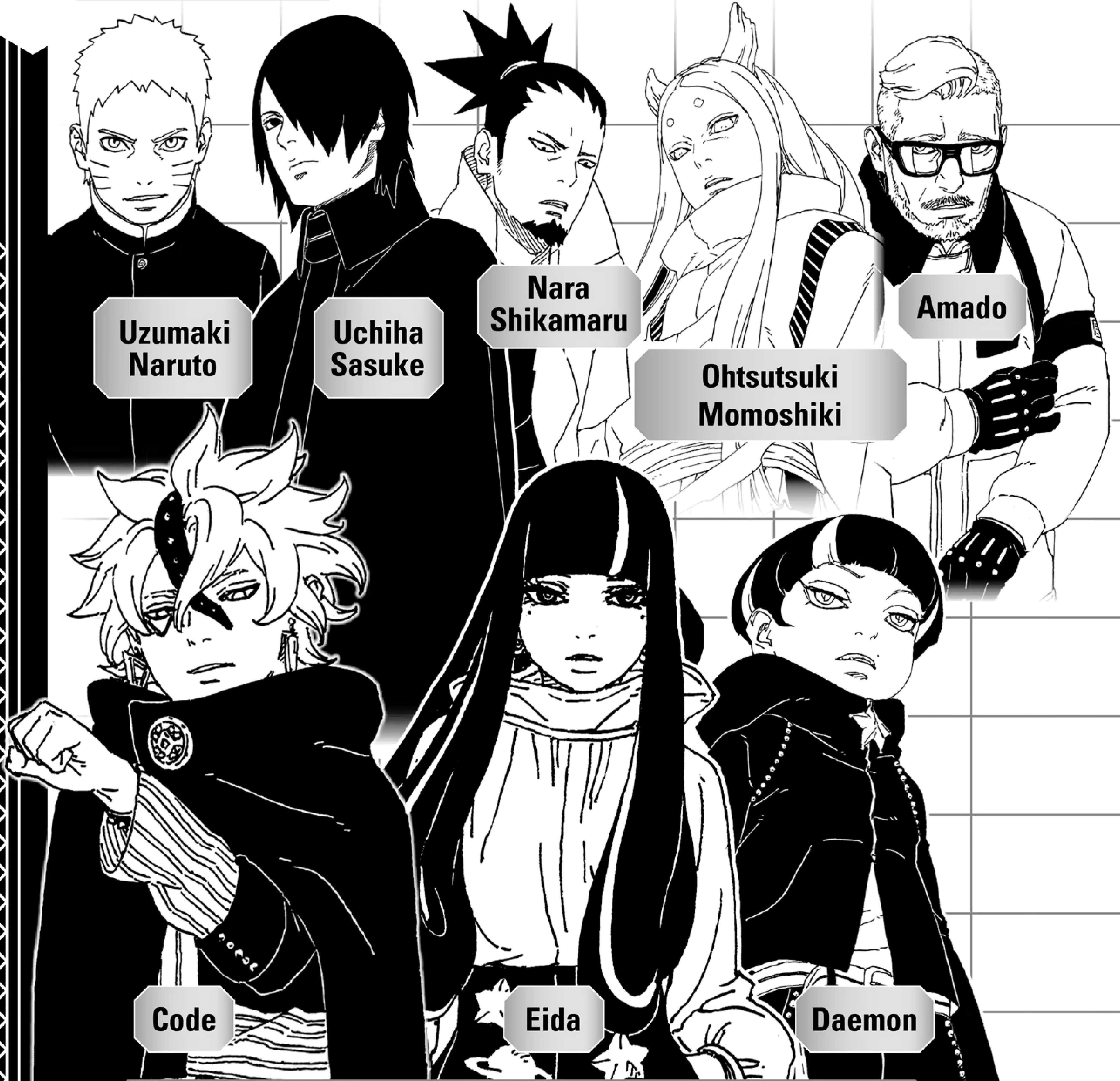
Art by

Mikio Ikemoto

VOLUME 19

The Domain of the Gods

BORUTO -NARUTO NEXT GENERATIONS- CHARACTERS


Uzumaki Naruto
Uchiha Sasuke
Nara Shikamaru
Ohtsutsuki Momoshiki
Amado
Code
Eida
Daemon

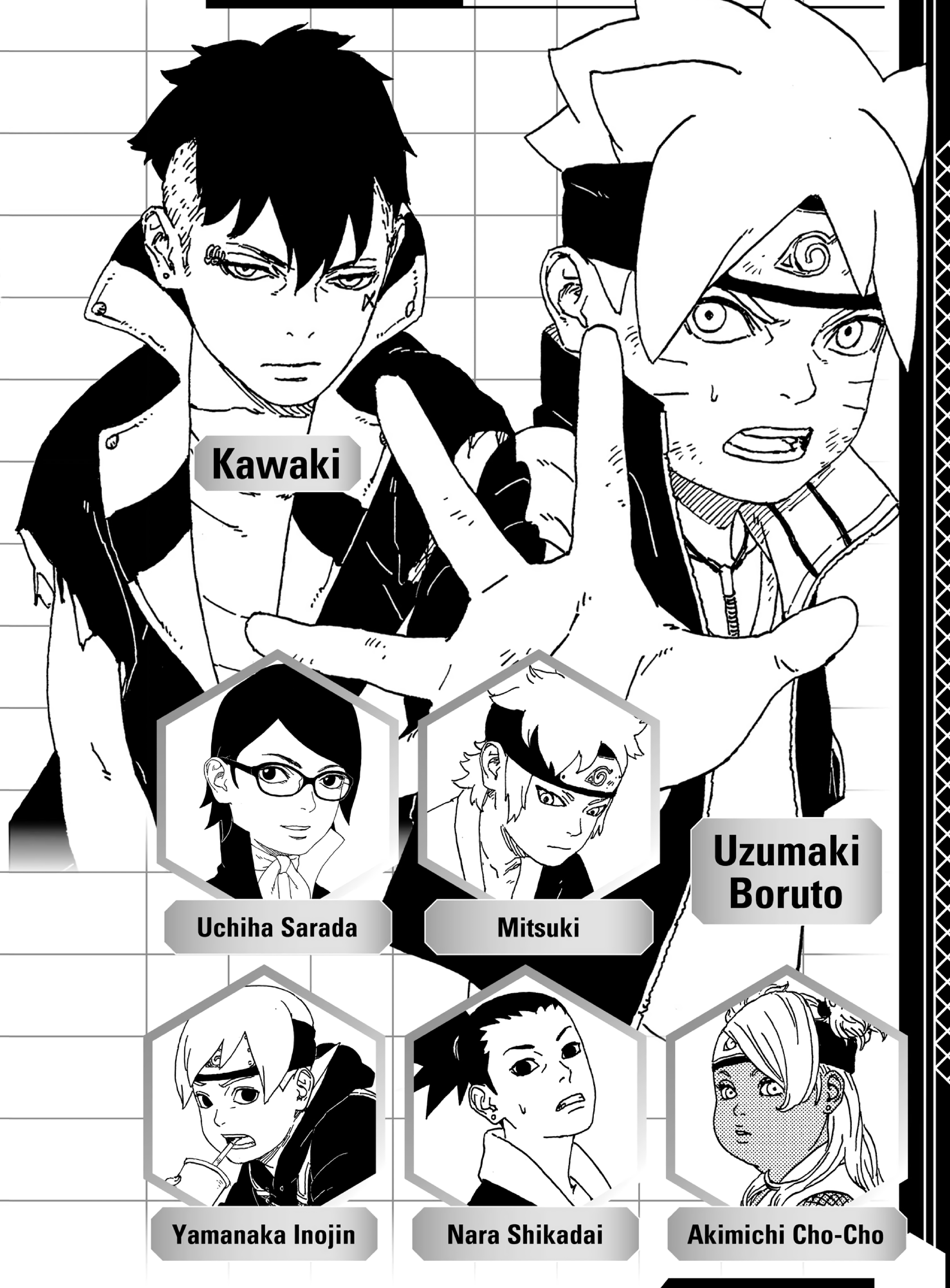
STORY

The Great Ninja War that shook the world and shed much blood is now history. Naruto has become the Seventh Hokage, and the people of Konohagakure Village are enjoying peace. But Ohtsutsuki Clan members attack and leave a mysterious mark, the Karma, on Seventh Hokage Naruto's son, Boruto…

Afterward, Boruto happens upon a young man named Kawaki who bears the same Karma as he does. And it is he who is proven to be what Kara has been calling the Vessel.

In order to place Kawaki under his protection, Naruto moves him into his own home. Boruto and Kawaki keep butting heads, but Kawaki starts acclimating to the Village and begins to respect Naruto.

Later, with his life running out, Ohtsutsuki Isshiki attempts to resurrect himself in Kawaki's body, but the valiant efforts of Naruto and the others lead to his end. Kara's last officer, Code, who has taken on the Ohtsutsuki Will from Isshiki, awakens sibling cyborgs who possess astounding powers, and vows to take Naruto and the others down. While battling Code, Kawaki tries to kill Boruto to stop Momoshiki, but it fails. Code then infiltrates Konoha Village and gets his power limiters removed. But, have he and Eida parted ways…?


Kawaki
Uzumaki Boruto
Uchiha Sarada
Mitsuki
Yamanaka Inojin
Nara Shikadai
Akimichi Cho-Cho

BORUTO

—NARUTO NEXT GENERATIONS—

VOLUME 19

THE DOMAIN OF GODS

CONTENTS

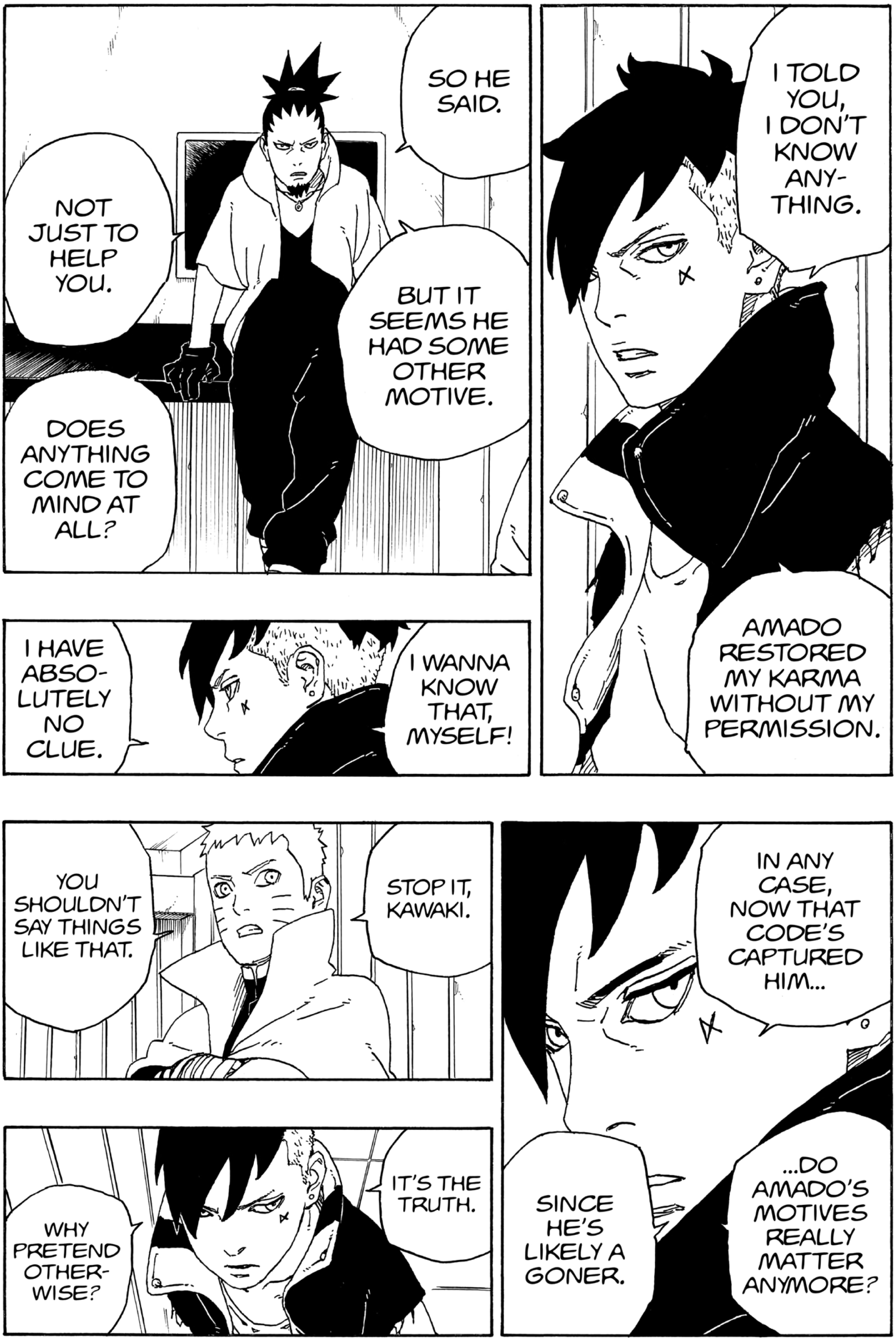
Number 72: **Smaller and More Useful** 7

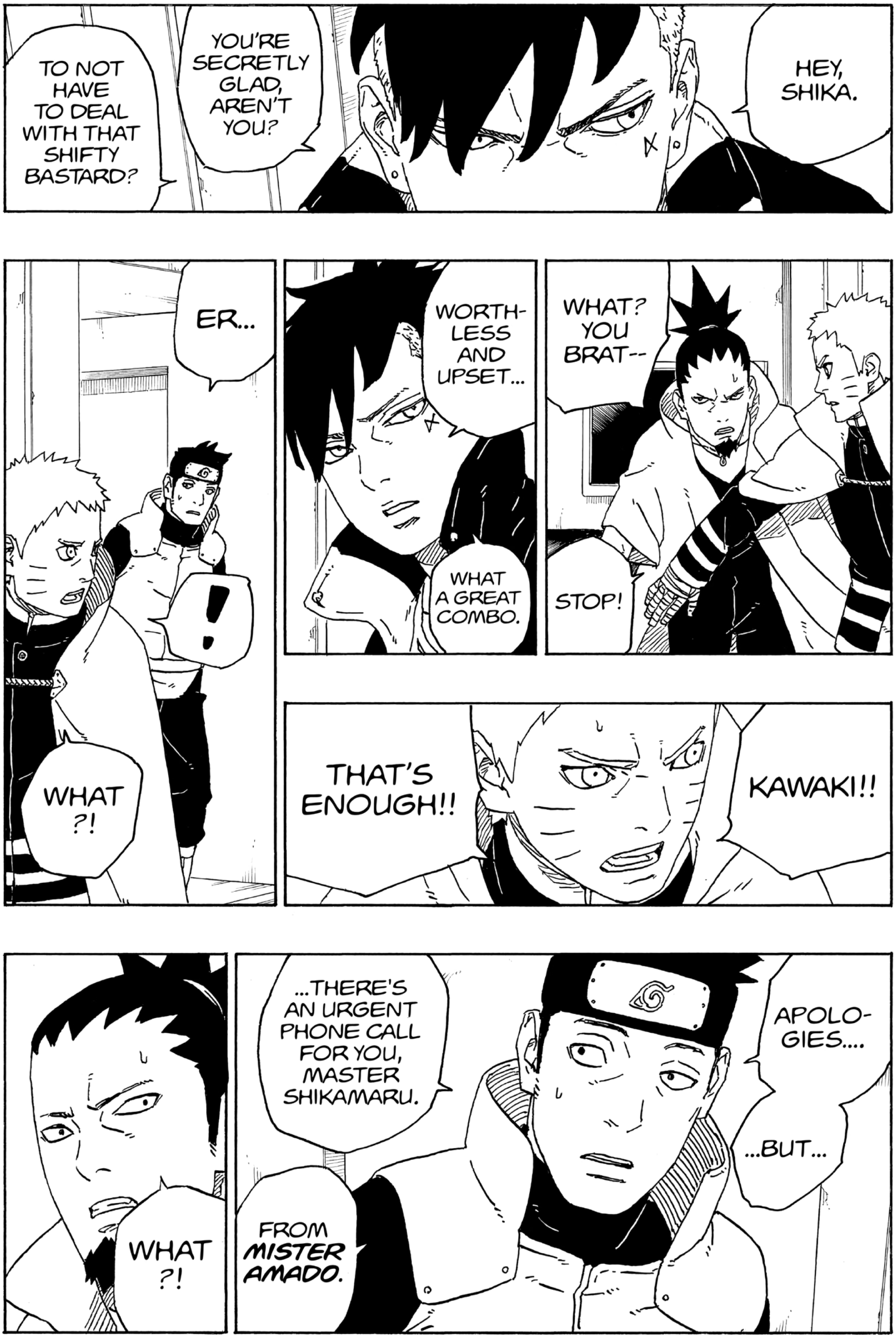
Number 73: **A Special Mission** 49

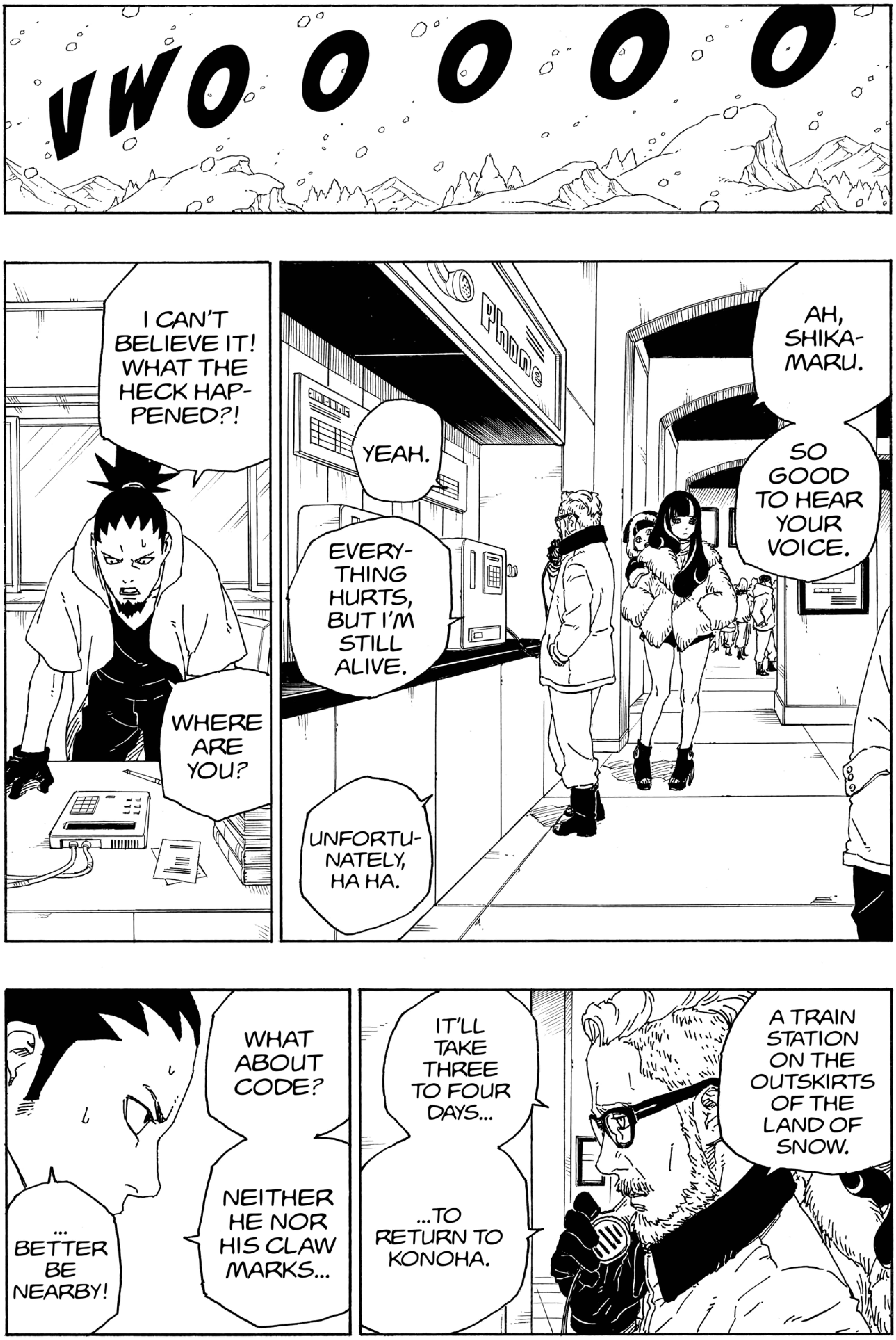
Number 74: **Baptism by Fire** 91

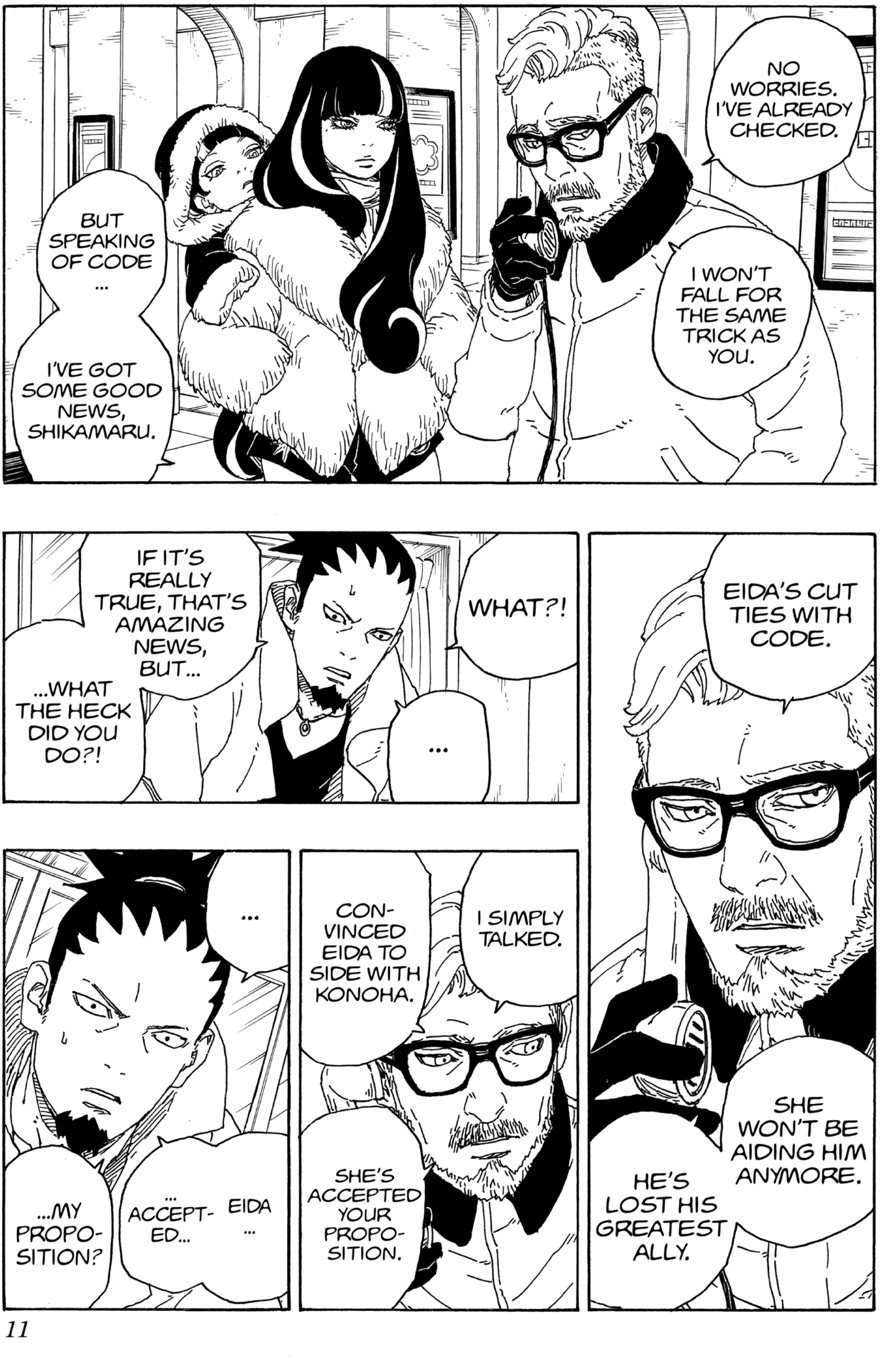
Number 75: **The Domain of Gods** 133

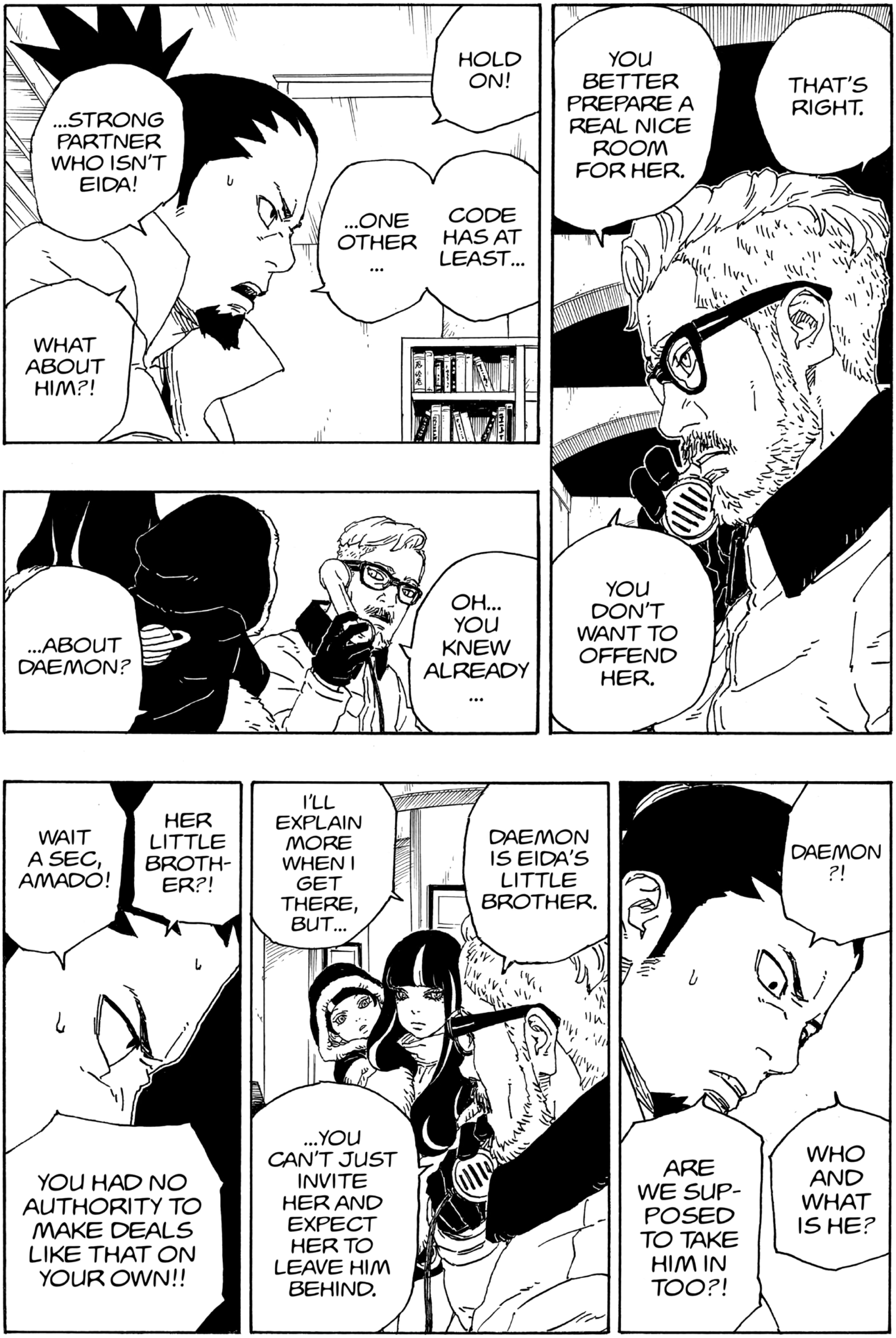
Number 72: Smaller and More Useful

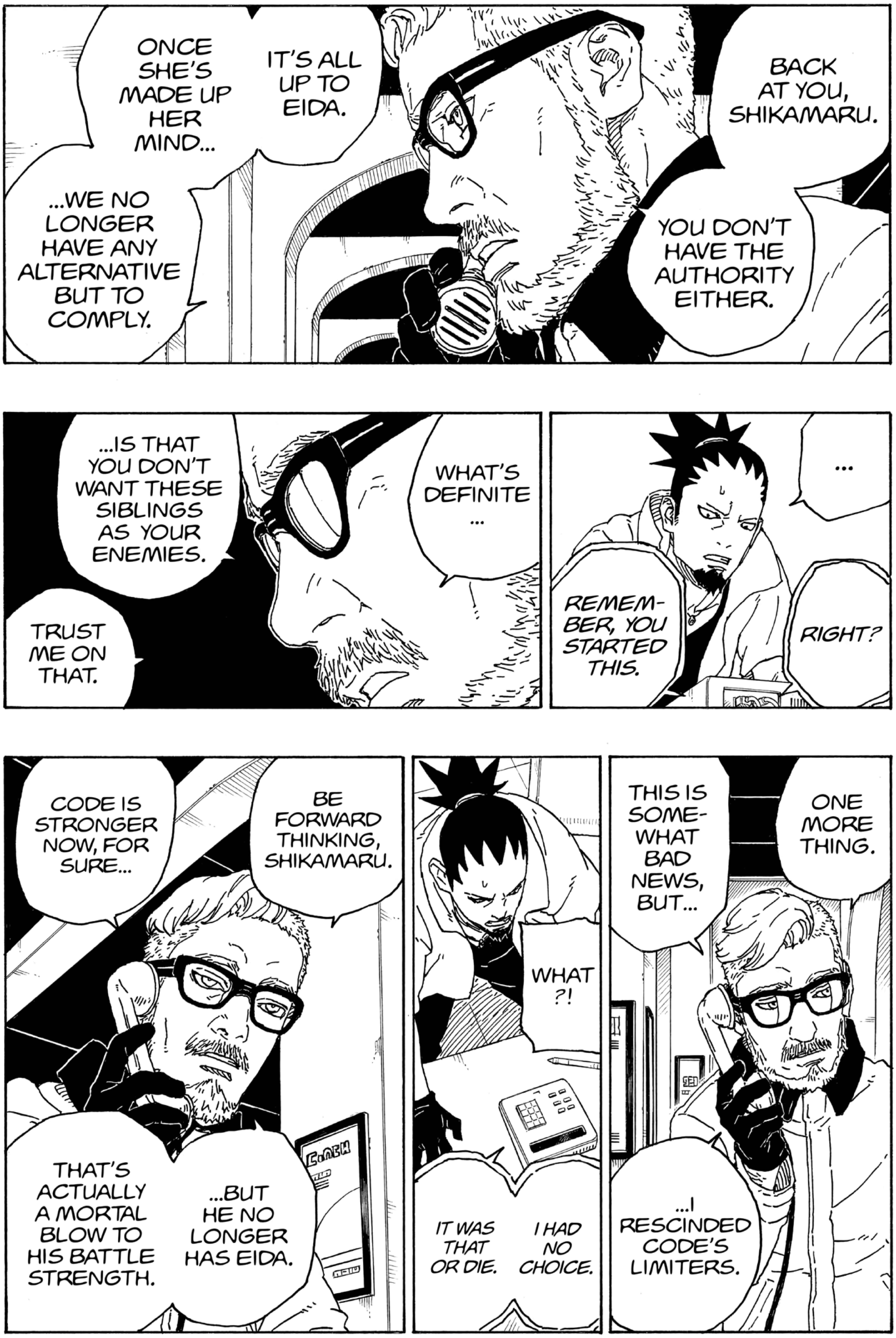

I TOLD YOU, I DON'T KNOW ANYTHING.
AMADO RESTORED MY KARMA WITHOUT MY PERMISSION.
SO HE SAID.
BUT IT SEEMS HE HAD SOME OTHER MOTIVE.
NOT JUST TO HELP YOU.
DOES ANYTHING COME TO MIND AT ALL?
I WANNA KNOW THAT, MYSELF!
I HAVE ABSOLUTELY NO CLUE.
IN ANY CASE, NOW THAT CODE'S CAPTURED HIM...
...DO AMADO'S MOTIVES REALLY MATTER ANYMORE?
SINCE HE'S LIKELY A GONER.
STOP IT, KAWAKI.
YOU SHOULDN'T SAY THINGS LIKE THAT.
IT'S THE TRUTH.
WHY PRETEND OTHERWISE?

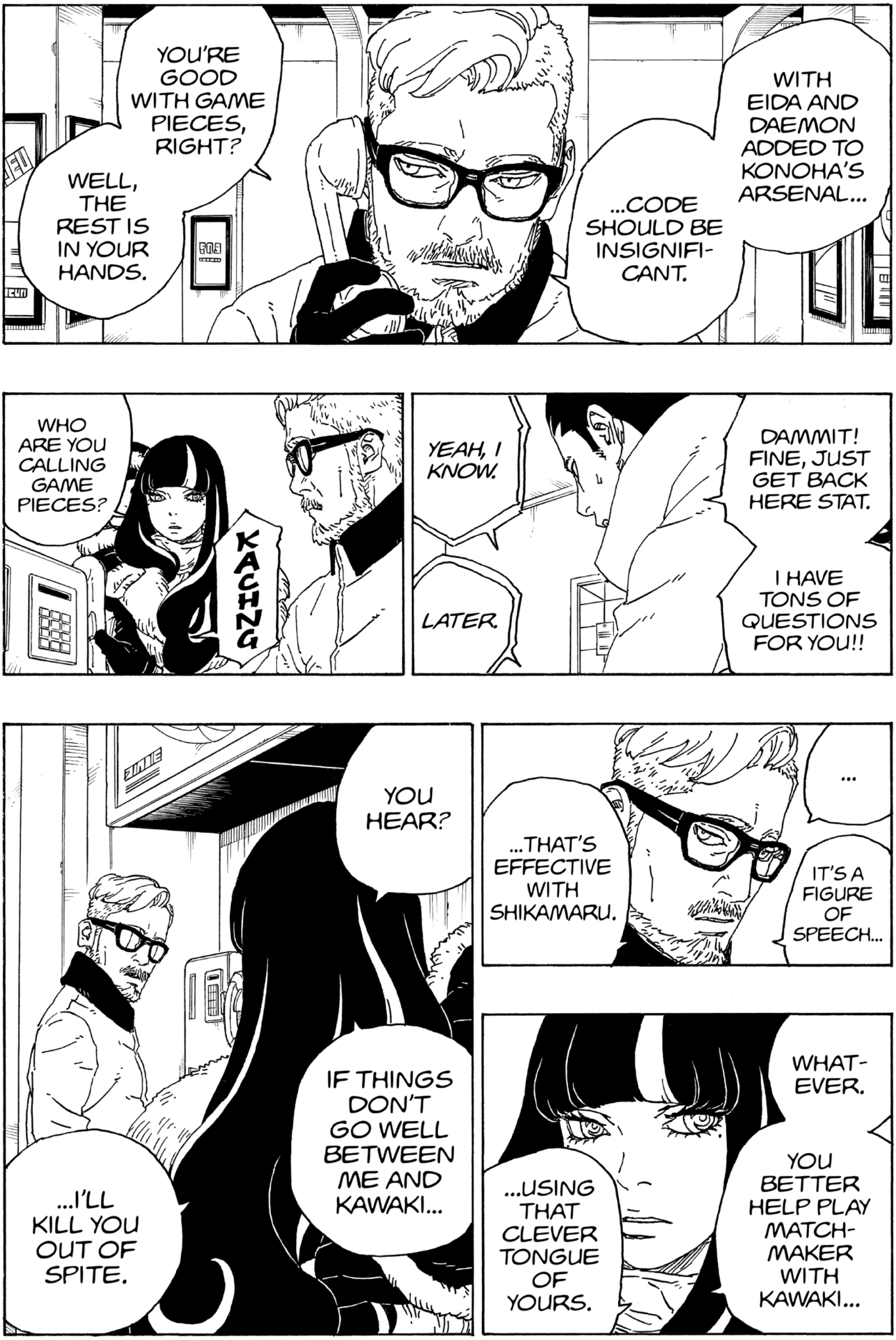

HEY, SHIKA.
YOU'RE SECRETLY GLAD, AREN'T YOU?
TO NOT HAVE TO DEAL WITH THAT SHIFTY BASTARD?
WHAT? YOU BRAT--
STOP!
WORTHLESS AND UPSET...
WHAT A GREAT COMBO.
KAWAKI!!
THAT'S ENOUGH!!
ER...
!
WHAT?!
APOLOGIES....
...BUT...
...THERE'S AN URGENT PHONE CALL FOR YOU, MASTER SHIKAMARU.
FROM ***MISTER AMADO.***
WHAT?!

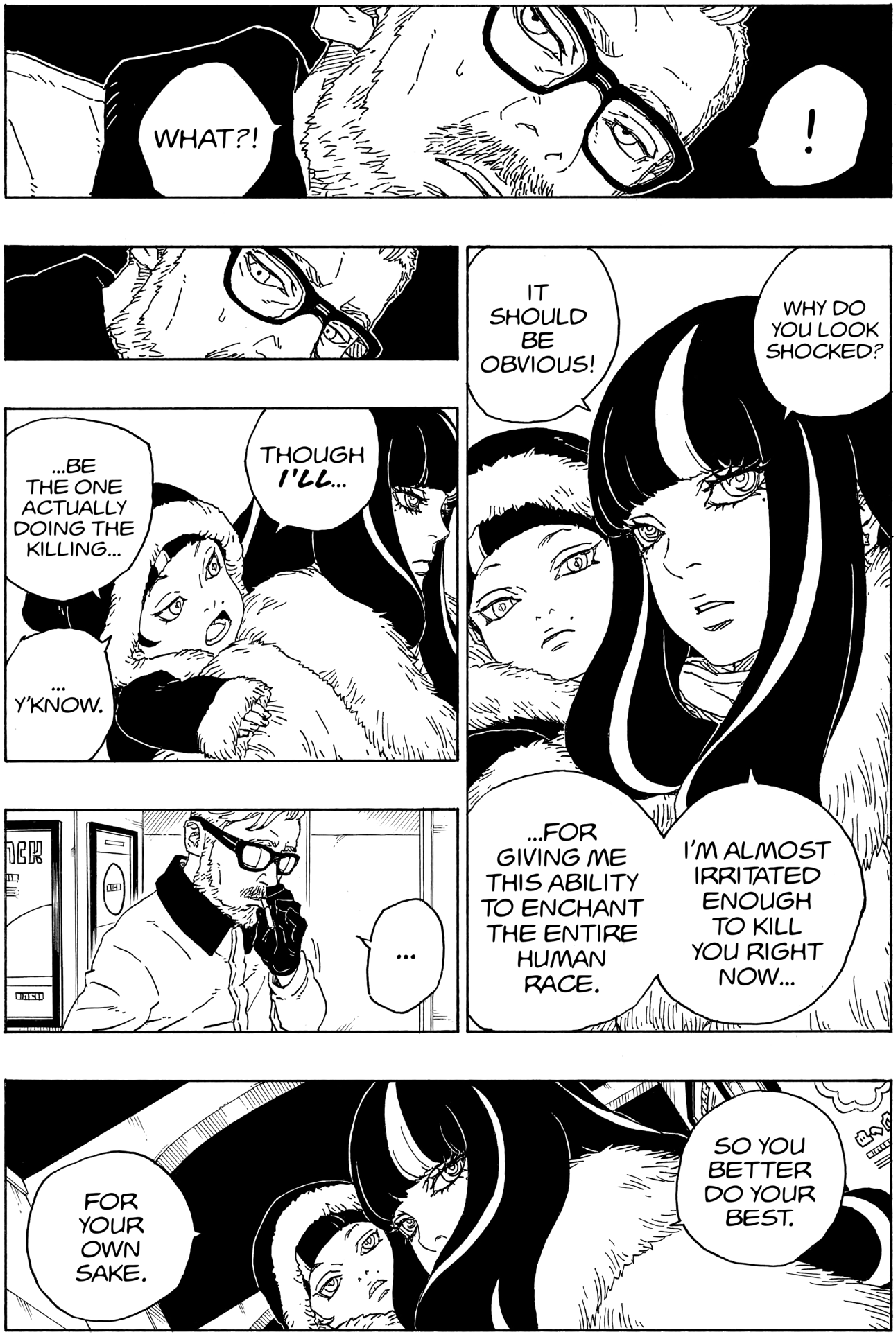

VWOOOOO
AH, SHIKAMARU.
SO GOOD TO HEAR YOUR VOICE.
Phone
I CAN'T BELIEVE IT! WHAT THE HECK HAPPENED?!
YEAH.
EVERYTHING HURTS, BUT I'M STILL ALIVE.
UNFORTUNATELY, HA HA.
WHERE ARE YOU?
A TRAIN STATION ON THE OUTSKIRTS OF THE LAND OF SNOW.
IT'LL TAKE THREE TO FOUR DAYS...
...TO RETURN TO KONOHA.
WHAT ABOUT CODE?
NEITHER HE NOR HIS CLAW MARKS...
...BETTER BE NEARBY!

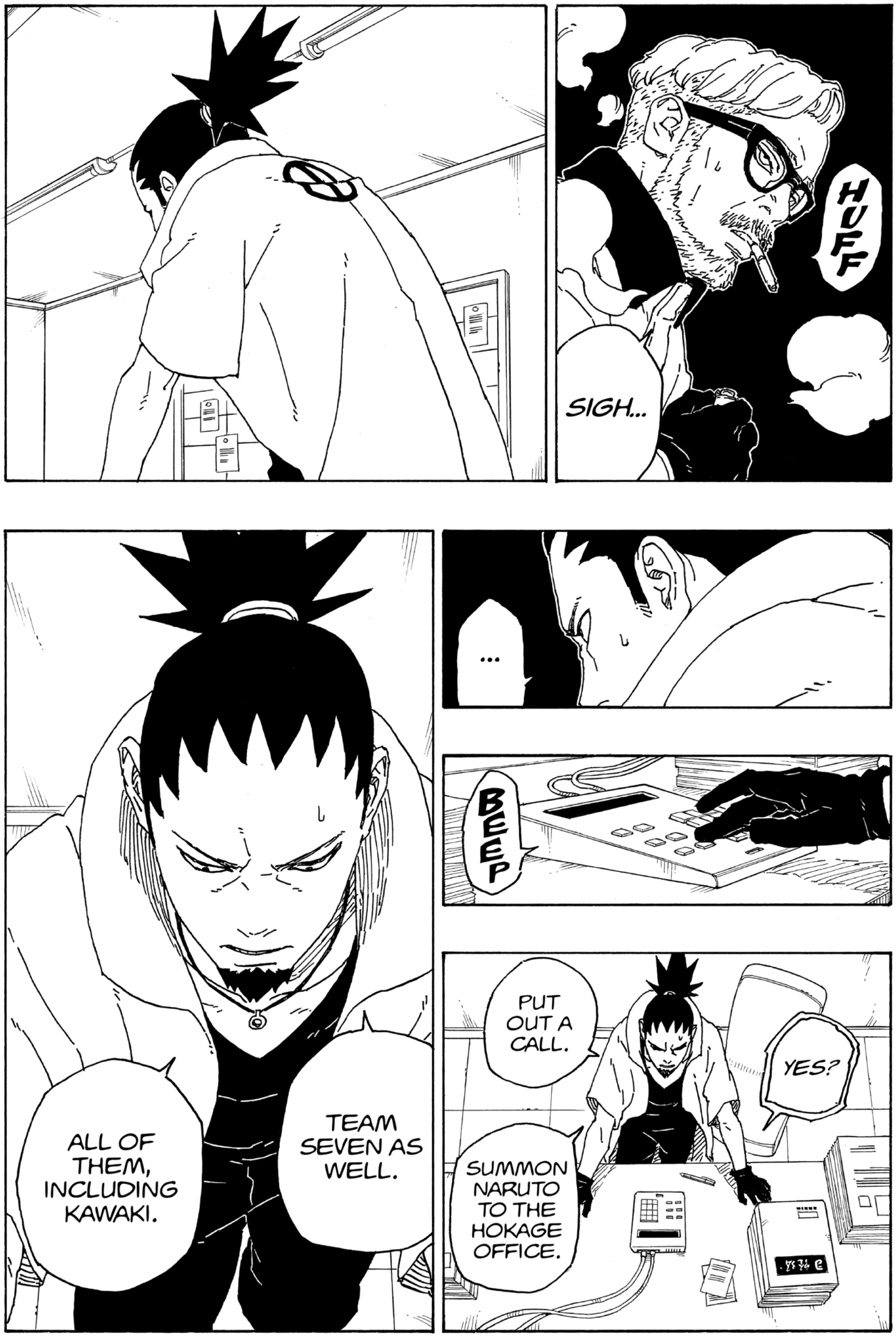

NO WORRIES. I'VE ALREADY CHECKED.
I WON'T FALL FOR THE SAME TRICK AS YOU.
BUT SPEAKING OF CODE...
I'VE GOT SOME GOOD NEWS, SHIKAMARU.
EIDA'S CUT TIES WITH CODE.
SHE WON'T BE AIDING HIM ANYMORE.
HE'S LOST HIS GREATEST ALLY.
WHAT?!
...
IF IT'S REALLY TRUE, THAT'S AMAZING NEWS, BUT...
...WHAT THE HECK DID YOU DO?!
I SIMPLY TALKED.
CON-VINCED EIDA TO SIDE WITH KONOHA.
SHE'S ACCEPTED YOUR PROPO-SITION.
...
EIDA...
...ACCEPT-ED...
...MY PROPO-SITION?

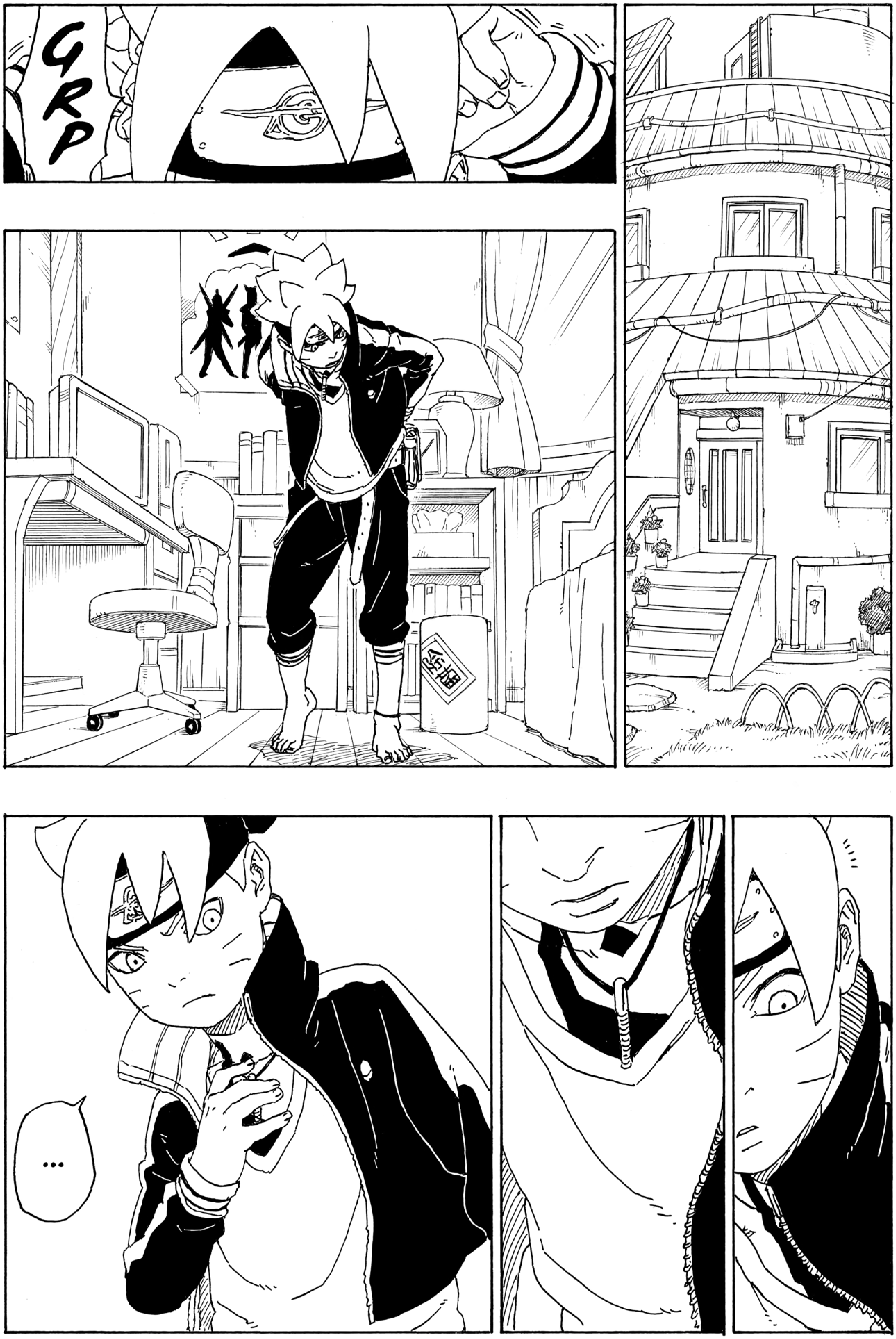

HOLD ON!
CODE HAS AT LEAST...
...ONE OTHER ...
...STRONG PARTNER WHO ISN'T EIDA!
WHAT ABOUT HIM?!
OH... YOU KNEW ALREADY ...
...ABOUT DAEMON?
THAT'S RIGHT.
YOU BETTER PREPARE A REAL NICE ROOM FOR HER.
YOU DON'T WANT TO OFFEND HER.
DAEMON ?!
WHO AND WHAT IS HE?
ARE WE SUPPOSED TO TAKE HIM IN TOO?!
DAEMON IS EIDA'S LITTLE BROTHER.
I'LL EXPLAIN MORE WHEN I GET THERE, BUT...
...YOU CAN'T JUST INVITE HER AND EXPECT HER TO LEAVE HIM BEHIND.
HER LITTLE BROTHER?!
WAIT A SEC, AMADO!
YOU HAD NO AUTHORITY TO MAKE DEALS LIKE THAT ON YOUR OWN!!

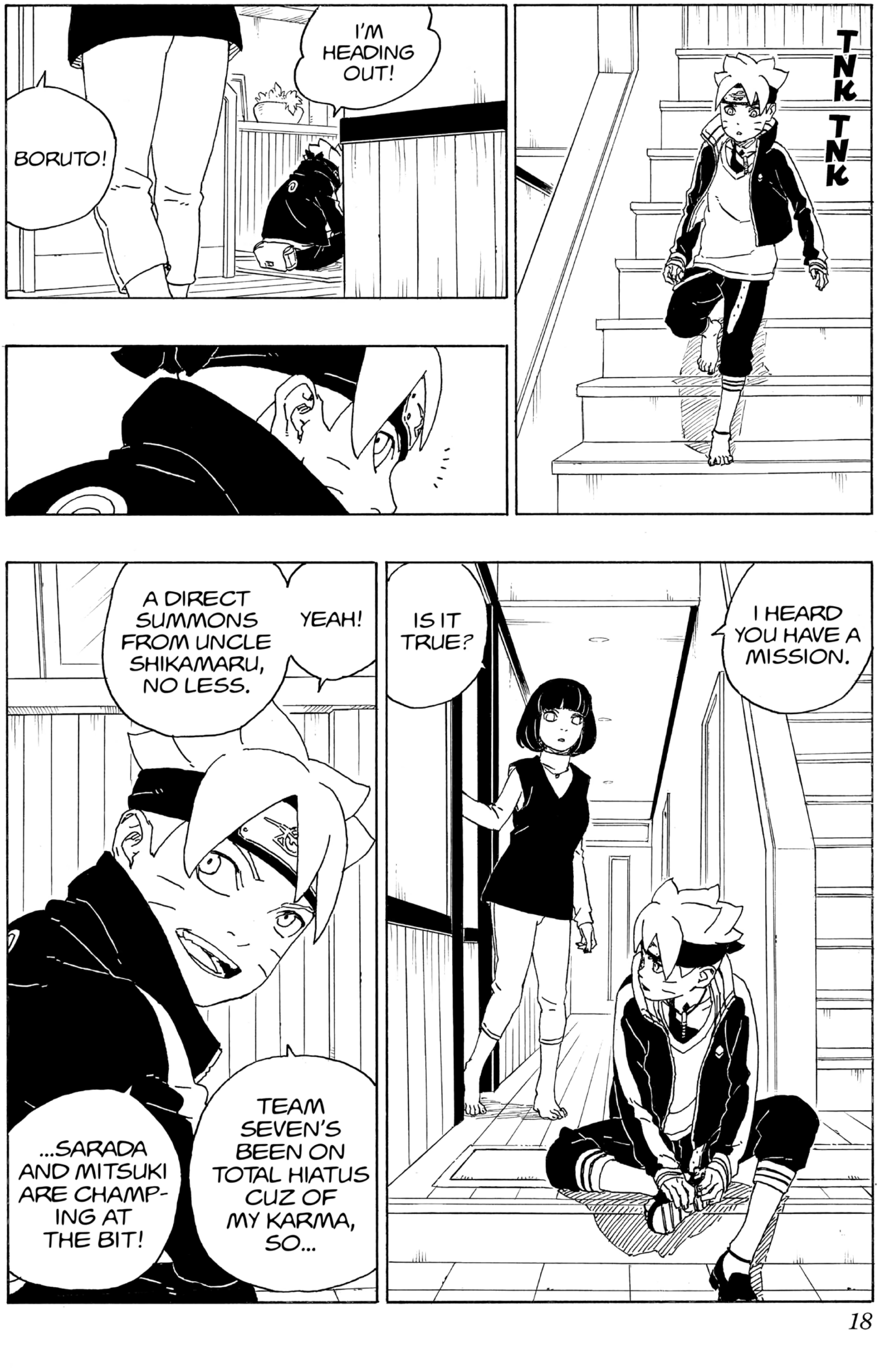

BACK AT YOU, SHIKAMARU.
YOU DON'T HAVE THE AUTHORITY EITHER.
IT'S ALL UP TO EIDA.
ONCE SHE'S MADE UP HER MIND...
...WE NO LONGER HAVE ANY ALTERNATIVE BUT TO COMPLY.
...
RIGHT?
REMEMBER, YOU STARTED THIS.
WHAT'S DEFINITE...
...IS THAT YOU DON'T WANT THESE SIBLINGS AS YOUR ENEMIES.
TRUST ME ON THAT.
ONE MORE THING.
THIS IS SOMEWHAT BAD NEWS, BUT...
...I RESCINDED CODE'S LIMITERS.
WHAT?!
I HAD NO CHOICE.
IT WAS THAT OR DIE.
BE FORWARD THINKING, SHIKAMARU.
CODE IS STRONGER NOW, FOR SURE...
...BUT HE NO LONGER HAS EIDA.
THAT'S ACTUALLY A MORTAL BLOW TO HIS BATTLE STRENGTH.

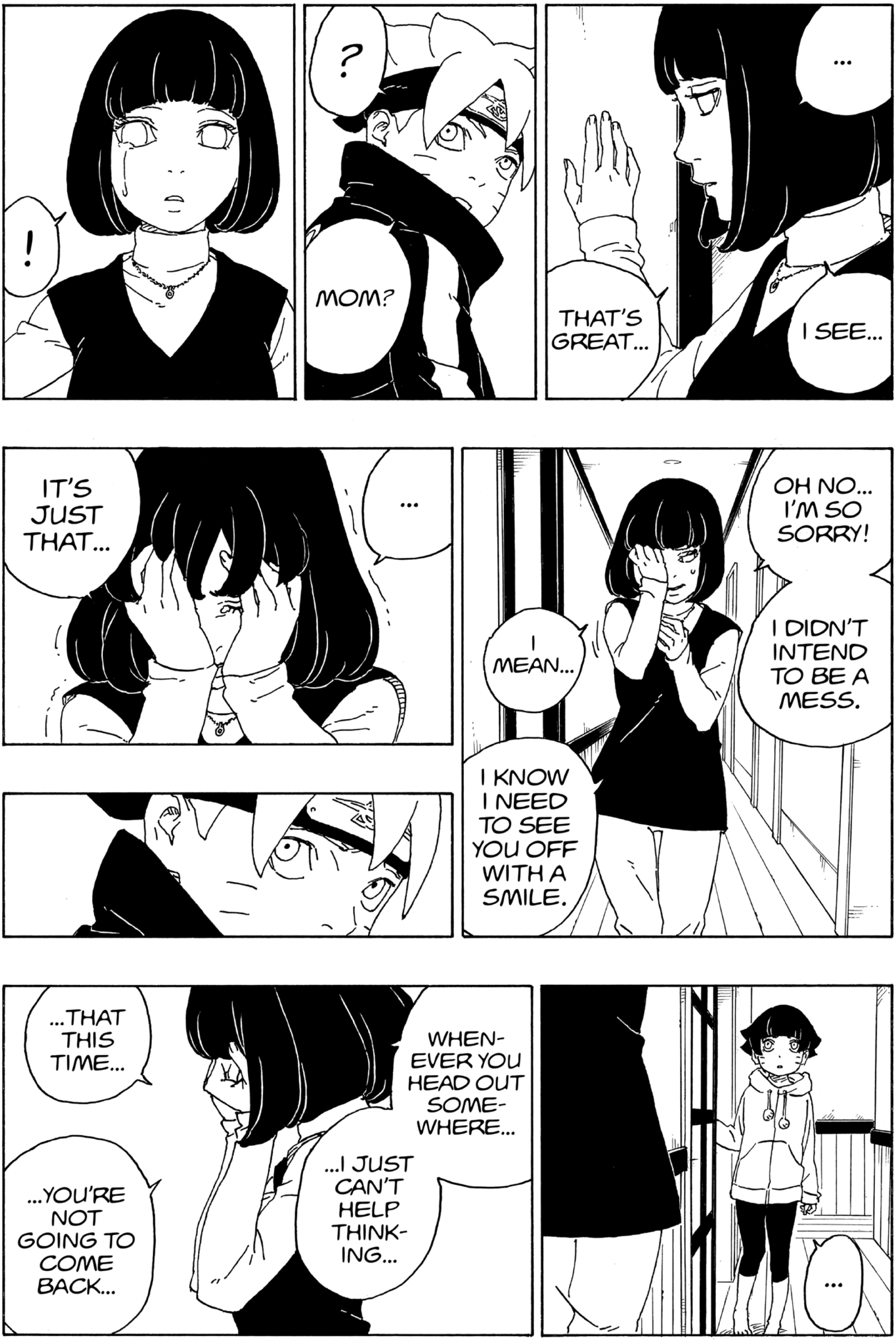

WITH EIDA AND DAEMON ADDED TO KONOHA'S ARSENAL...
...CODE SHOULD BE INSIGNIFICANT.
YOU'RE GOOD WITH GAME PIECES, RIGHT?
WELL, THE REST IS IN YOUR HANDS.
DAMMIT! FINE, JUST GET BACK HERE STAT.
I HAVE TONS OF QUESTIONS FOR YOU!!
YEAH, I KNOW.
LATER.
KACHNG
WHO ARE YOU CALLING GAME PIECES?
...
IT'S A FIGURE OF SPEECH...
...THAT'S EFFECTIVE WITH SHIKAMARU.
WHATEVER.
YOU BETTER HELP PLAY MATCHMAKER WITH KAWAKI...
...USING THAT CLEVER TONGUE OF YOURS.
YOU HEAR?
IF THINGS DON'T GO WELL BETWEEN ME AND KAWAKI...
...I'LL KILL YOU OUT OF SPITE.

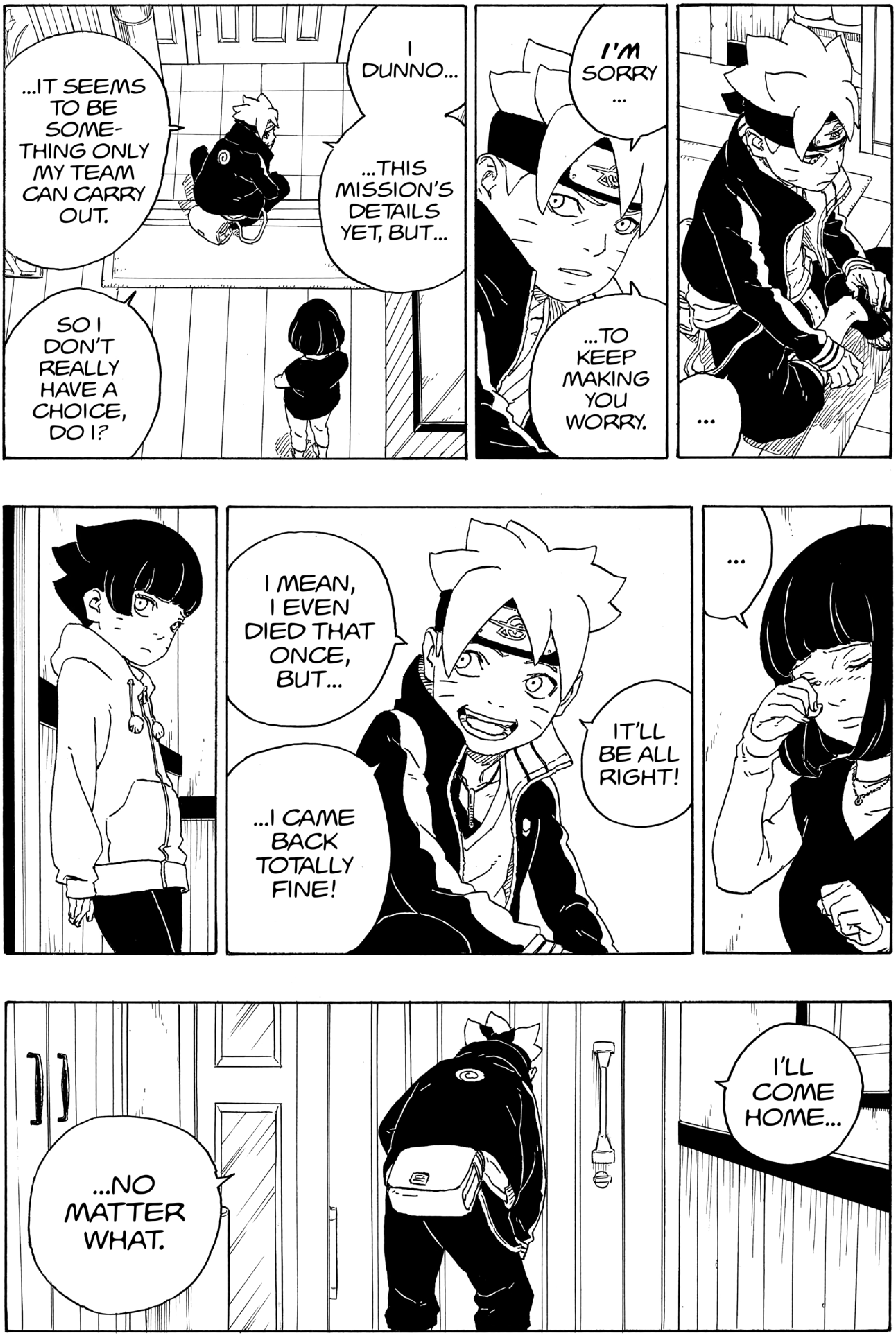

!
WHAT?!
WHY DO YOU LOOK SHOCKED?
IT SHOULD BE OBVIOUS!
I'M ALMOST IRRITATED ENOUGH TO KILL YOU RIGHT NOW...
...FOR GIVING ME THIS ABILITY TO ENCHANT THE ENTIRE HUMAN RACE.
THOUGH *I'LL*...
...BE THE ONE ACTUALLY DOING THE KILLING...
...Y'KNOW.
...
SO YOU BETTER DO YOUR BEST.
FOR YOUR OWN SAKE.

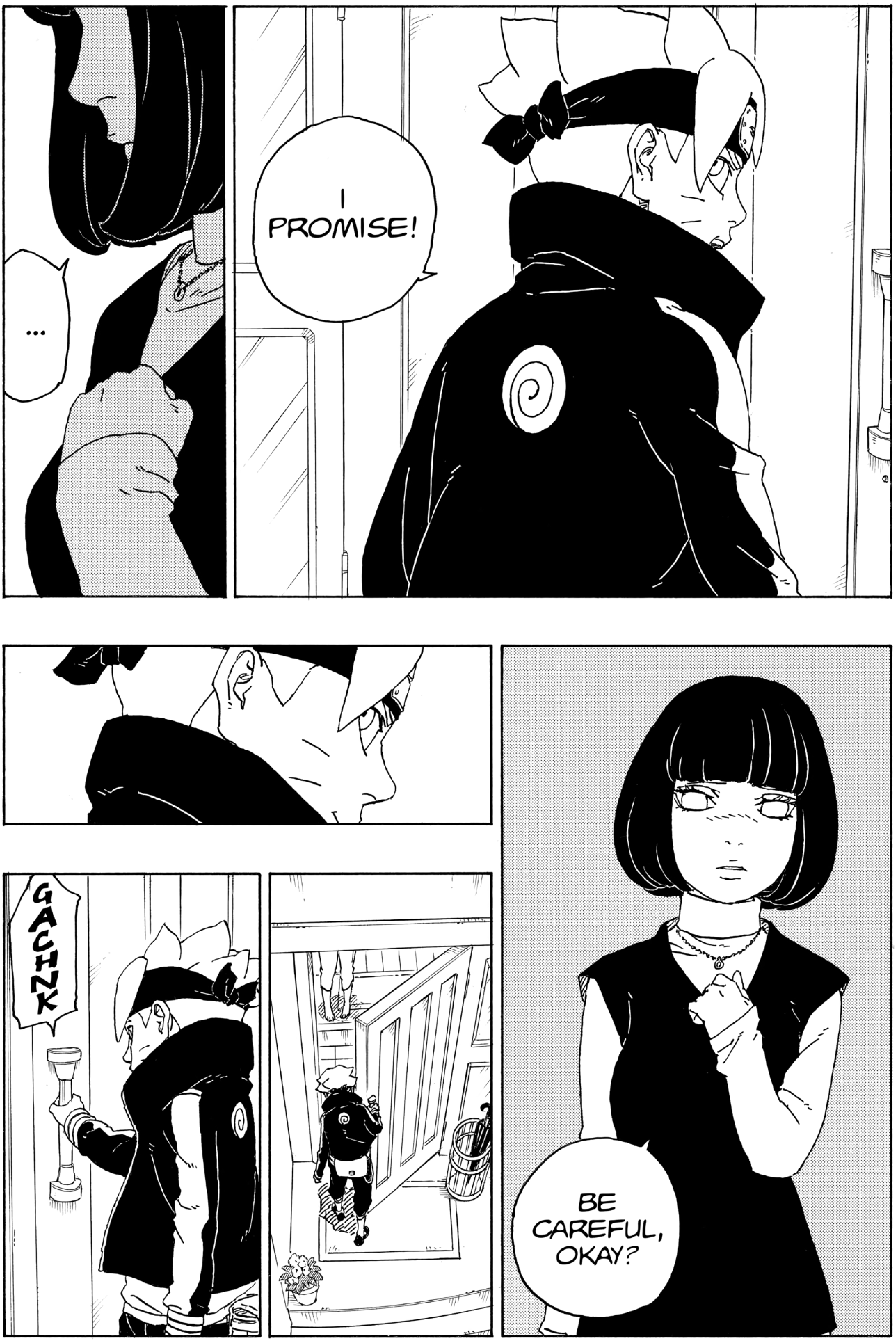

HUFF
SIGH...
...
BEEP
PUT OUT A CALL.
YES?
SUMMON NARUTO TO THE HOKAGE OFFICE.
TEAM SEVEN AS WELL.
ALL OF THEM, INCLUDING KAWAKI.

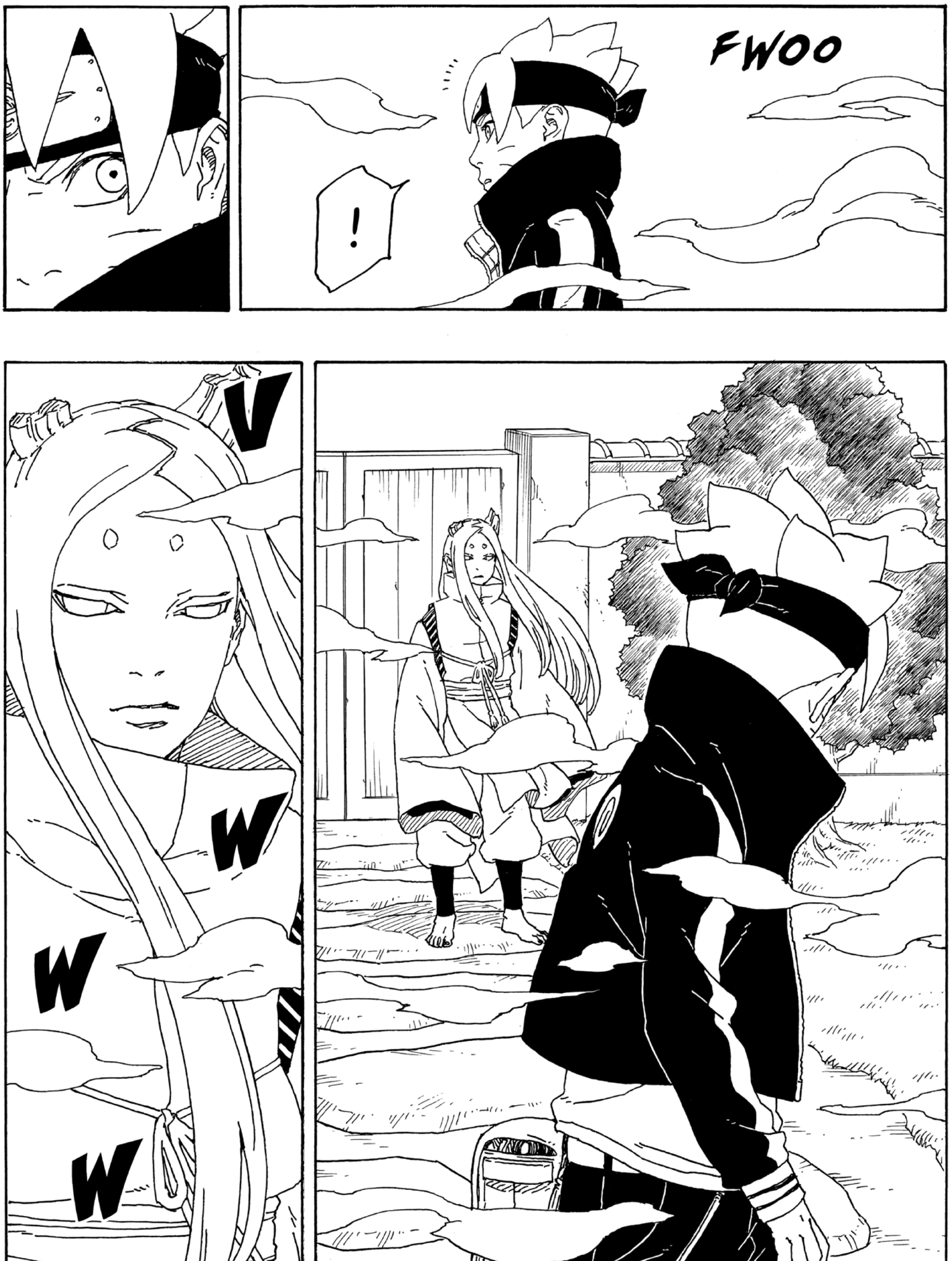

GRP
…

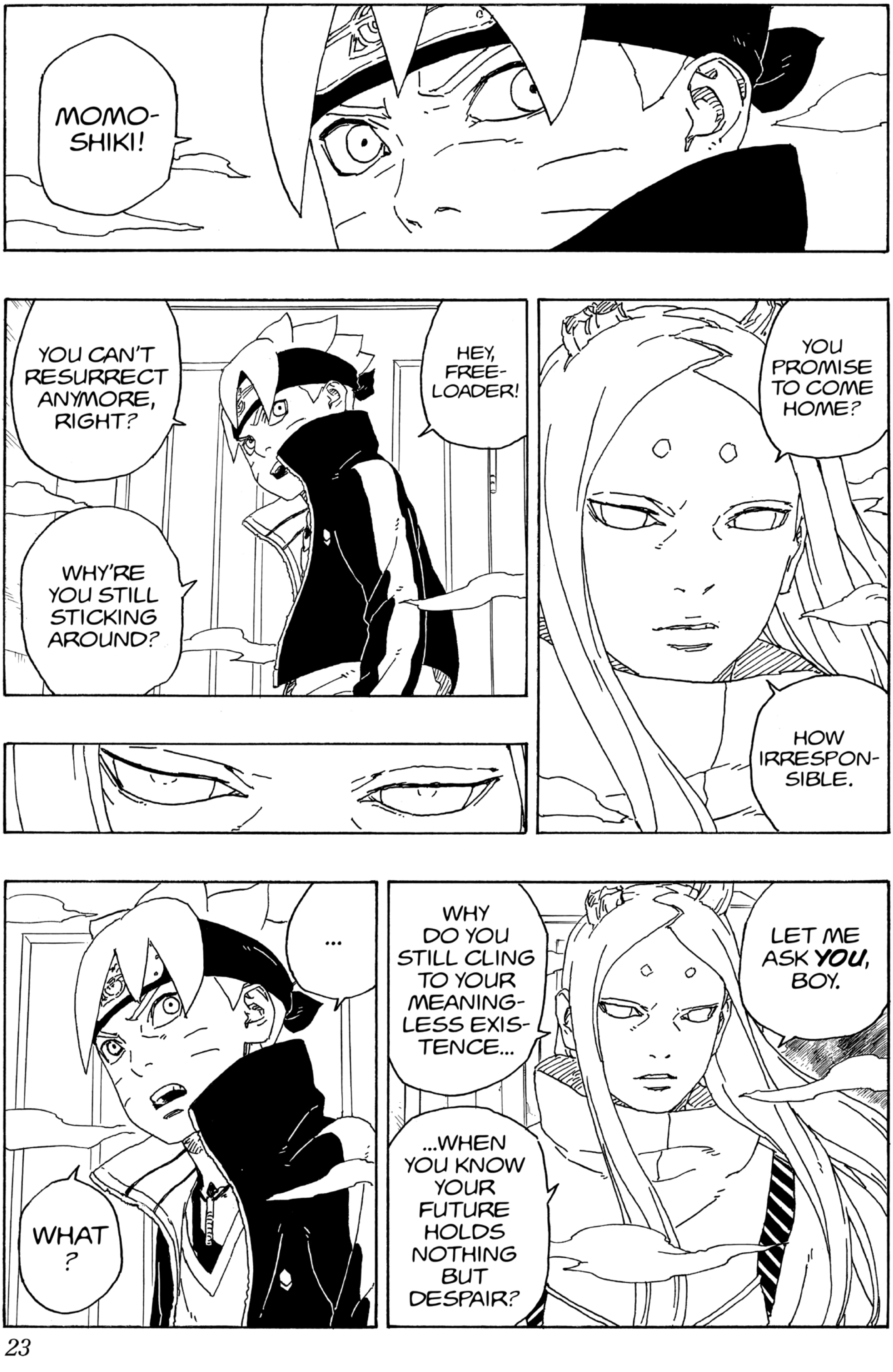

TNK TNK
I'M HEADING OUT!
BORUTO!
I HEARD YOU HAVE A MISSION.
IS IT TRUE?
YEAH!
A DIRECT SUMMONS FROM UNCLE SHIKAMARU, NO LESS.
TEAM SEVEN'S BEEN ON TOTAL HIATUS CUZ OF MY KARMA, SO...
...SARADA AND MITSUKI ARE CHAMPING AT THE BIT!

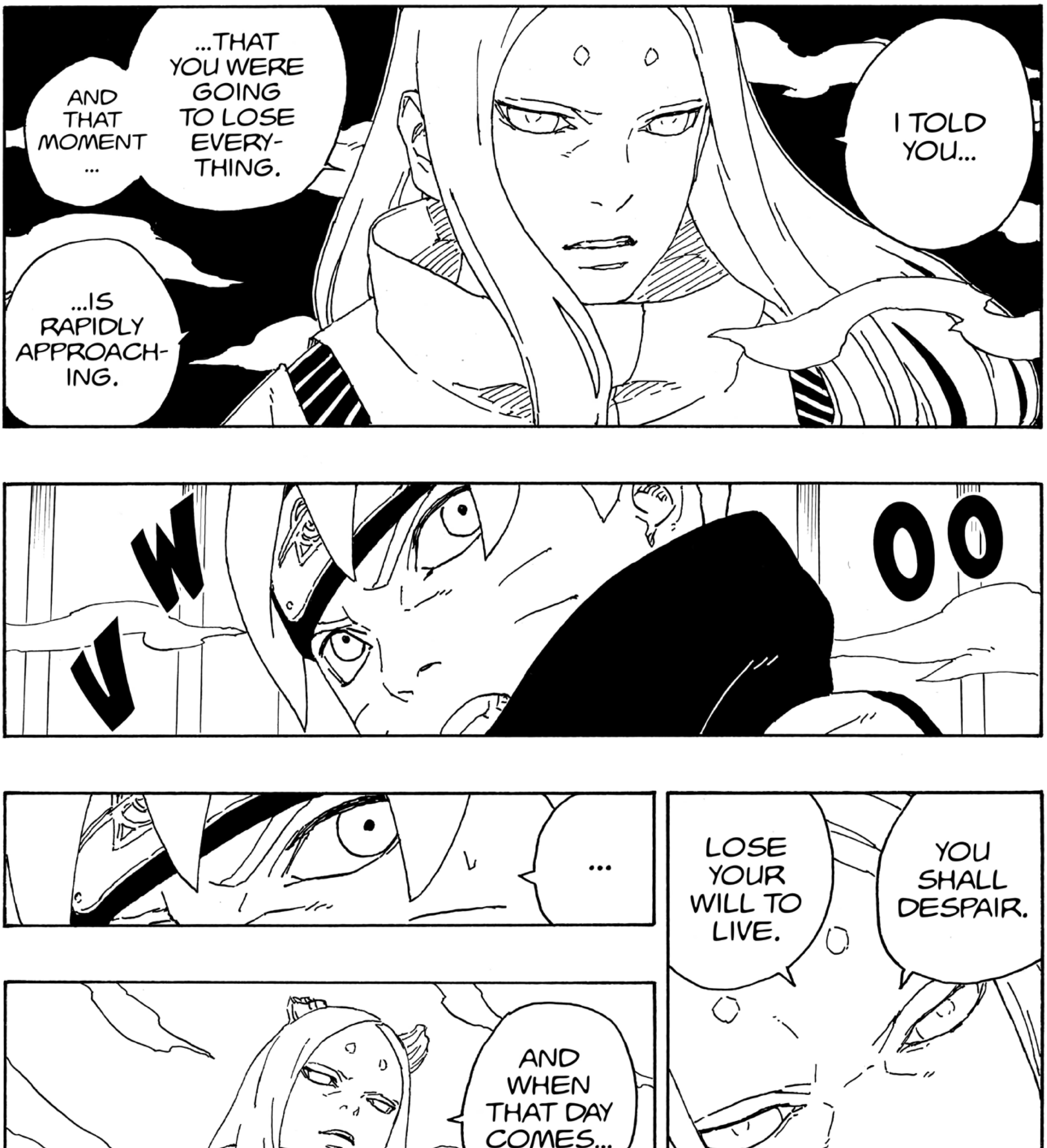

...
I SEE...
THAT'S GREAT...
?
MOM?
!
OH NO... I'M SO SORRY!
I DIDN'T INTEND TO BE A MESS.
I MEAN...
I KNOW I NEED TO SEE YOU OFF WITH A SMILE.
...
IT'S JUST THAT...
...
WHENEVER YOU HEAD OUT SOMEWHERE...
...I JUST CAN'T HELP THINKING...
...THAT THIS TIME...
...YOU'RE NOT GOING TO COME BACK...

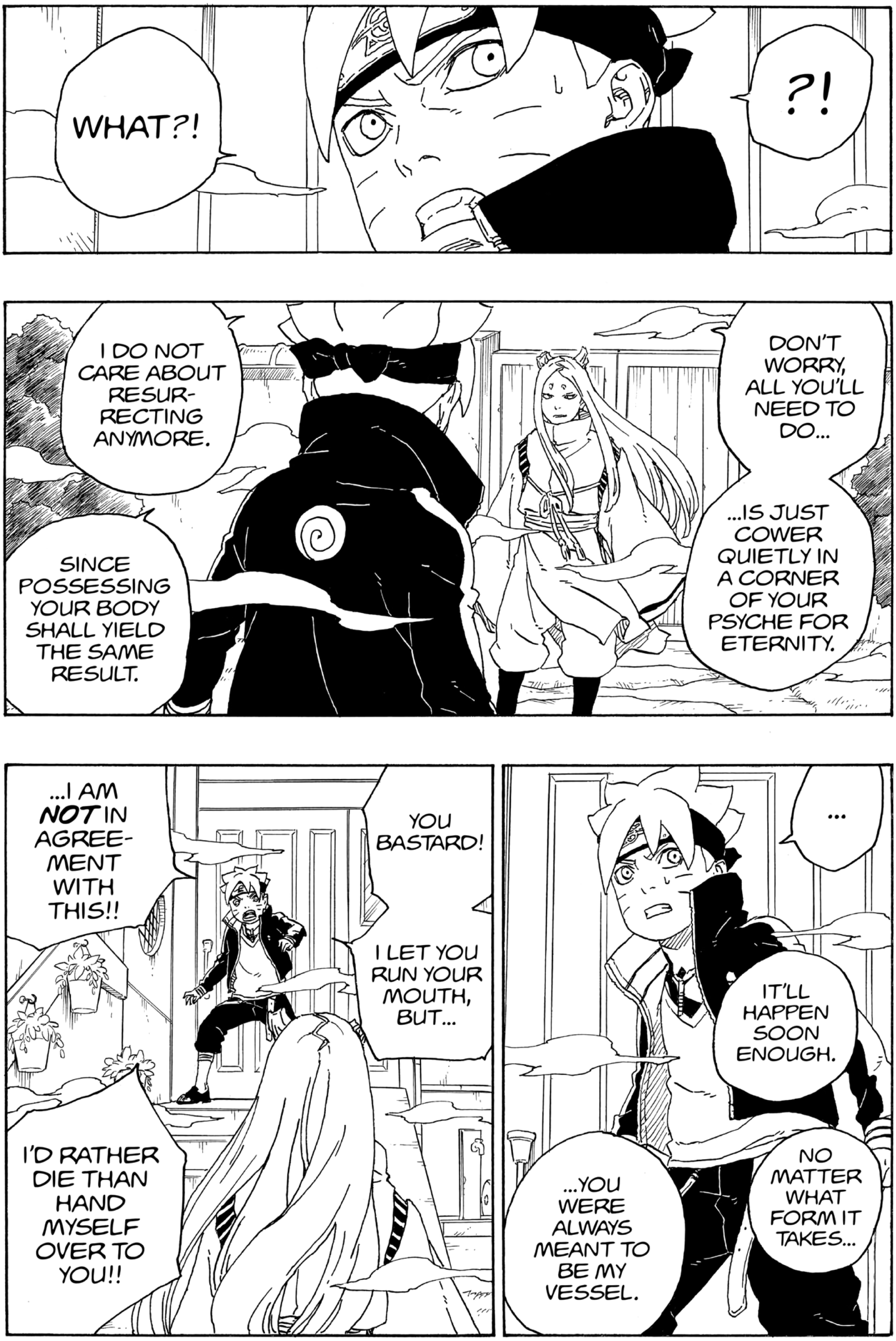

I DUNNO... ...THIS MISSION'S DETAILS YET, BUT...
...IT SEEMS TO BE SOMETHING ONLY MY TEAM CAN CARRY OUT.
SO I DON'T REALLY HAVE A CHOICE, DO I?
I'M SORRY...
...TO KEEP MAKING YOU WORRY.
...
I MEAN, I EVEN DIED THAT ONCE, BUT...
...I CAME BACK TOTALLY FINE!
IT'LL BE ALL RIGHT!
...
I'LL COME HOME...
...NO MATTER WHAT.

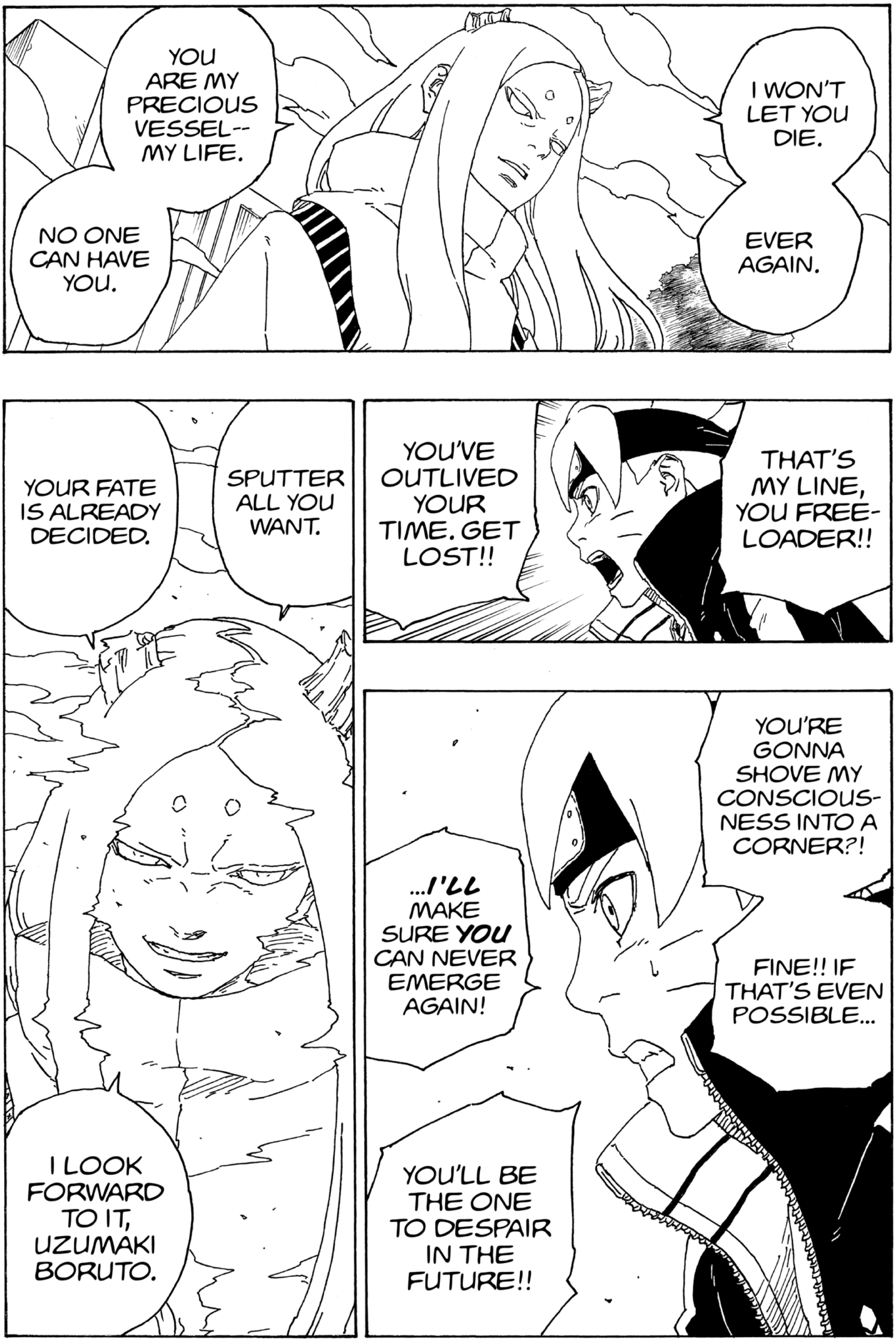

I PROMISE!
...
GACHNK
BE CAREFUL, OKAY?

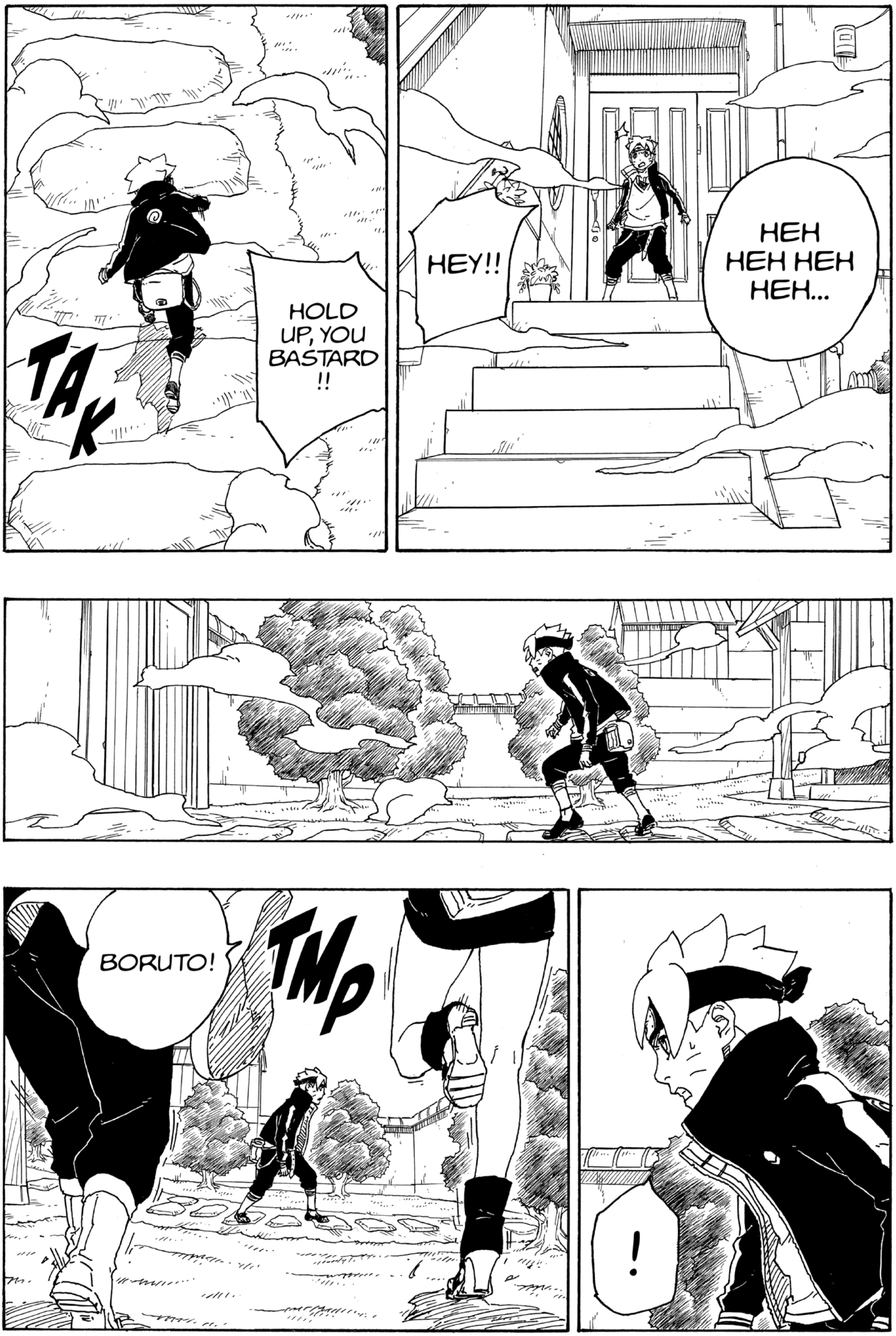

FWOO
!
VWWWW

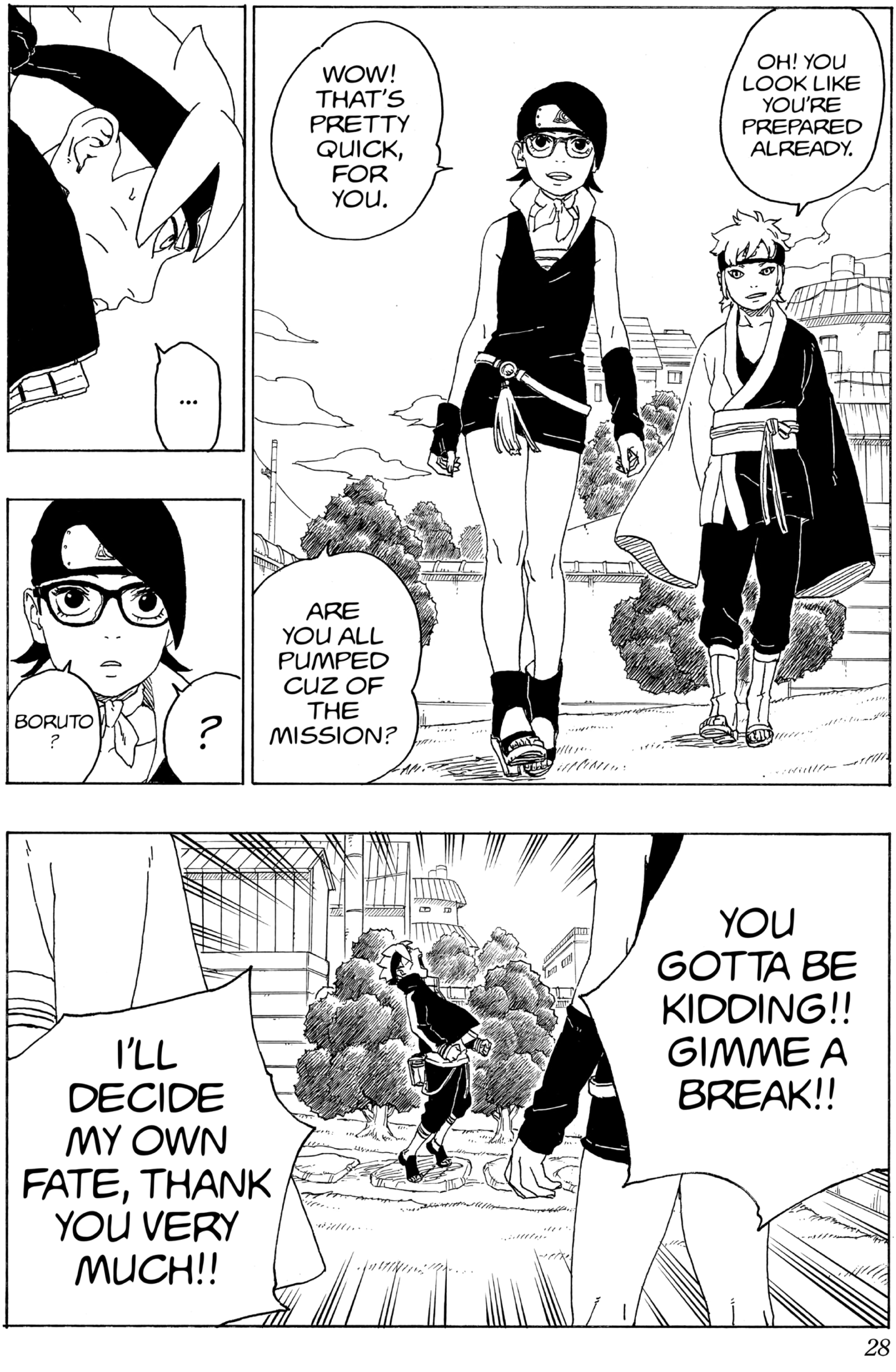

MOMO-SHIKI!
YOU PROMISE TO COME HOME?
HOW IRRESPONSIBLE.
HEY, FREE-LOADER!
YOU CAN'T RESURRECT ANYMORE, RIGHT?
WHY'RE YOU STILL STICKING AROUND?
LET ME ASK **YOU**, BOY.
WHY DO YOU STILL CLING TO YOUR MEANINGLESS EXISTENCE...
...WHEN YOU KNOW YOUR FUTURE HOLDS NOTHING BUT DESPAIR?
...
WHAT?

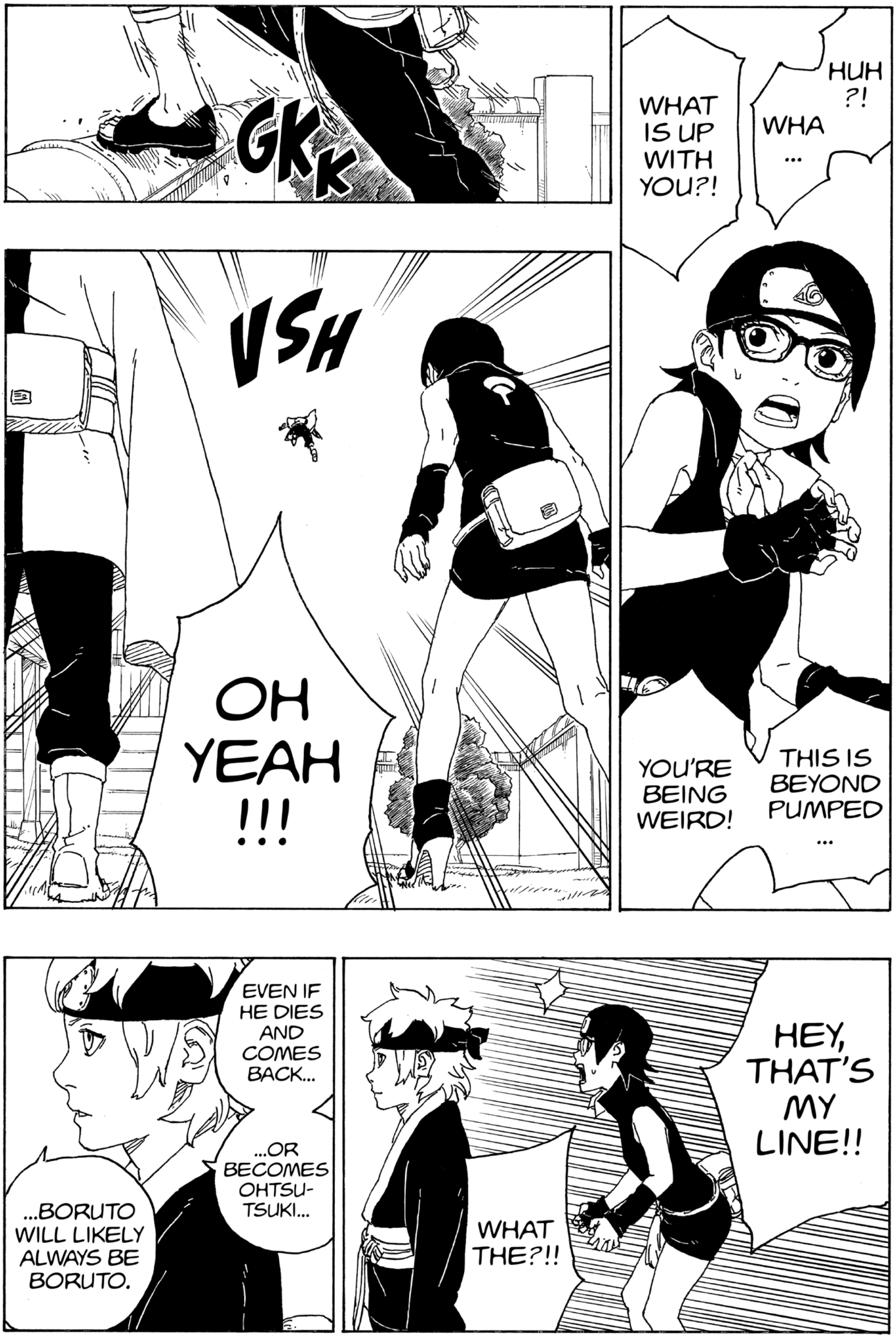

I TOLD YOU...
...THAT YOU WERE GOING TO LOSE EVERYTHING.
AND THAT MOMENT...
...IS RAPIDLY APPROACHING-ING.
VWOO
YOU SHALL DESPAIR.
LOSE YOUR WILL TO LIVE.
ENOUGH TO WANT TO ESCAPE THIS WORLD.
...
AND WHEN THAT DAY COMES...
...I SHALL TAKE OVER...
...AND LIVE UZUMAKI BORUTO'S LIFE FOR YOU.

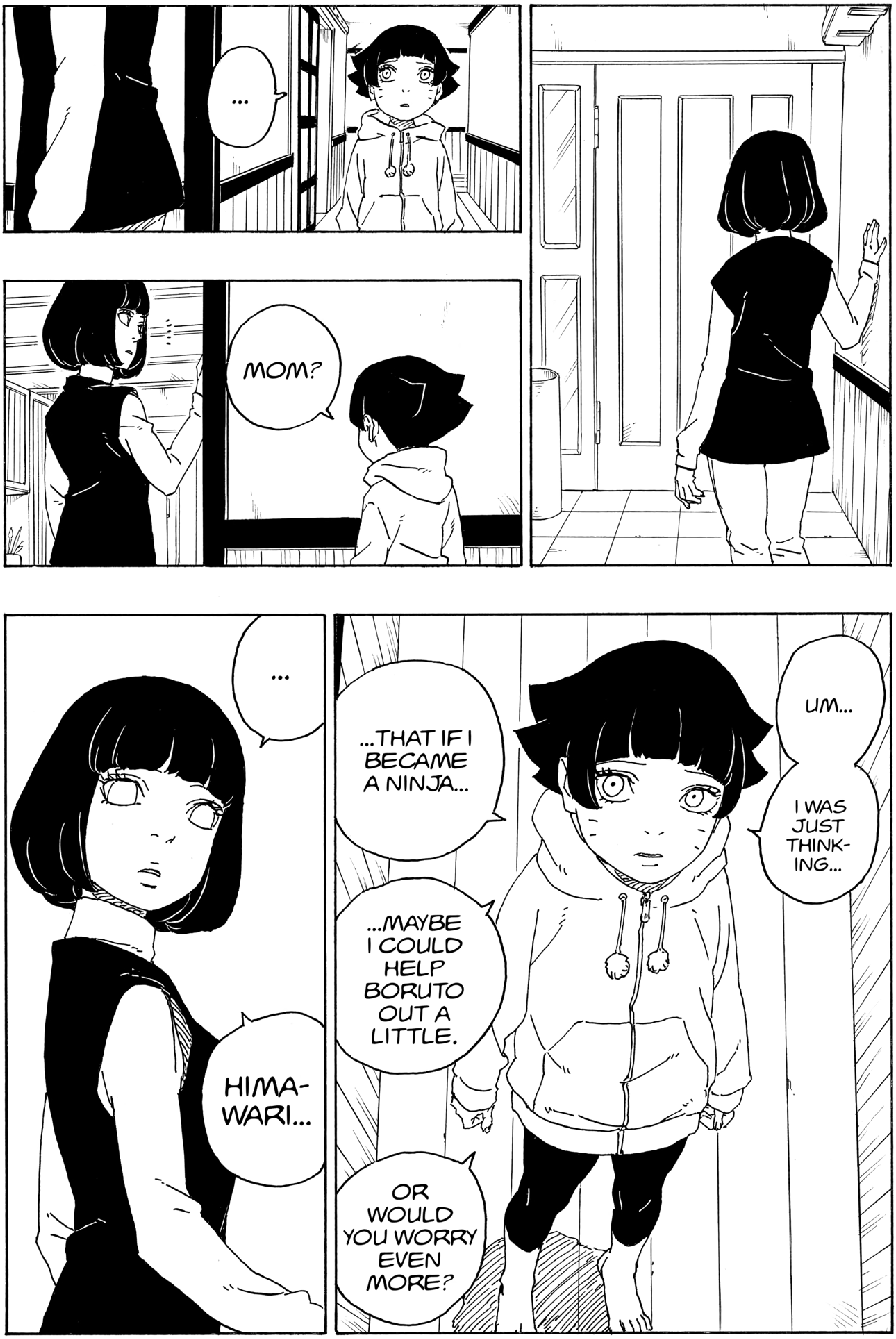

?!
WHAT?!
DON'T WORRY, ALL YOU'LL NEED TO DO...
...IS JUST COWER QUIETLY IN A CORNER OF YOUR PSYCHE FOR ETERNITY.
I DO NOT CARE ABOUT RESURRECTING ANYMORE.
SINCE POSSESSING YOUR BODY SHALL YIELD THE SAME RESULT.
...
IT'LL HAPPEN SOON ENOUGH.
NO MATTER WHAT FORM IT TAKES...
...YOU WERE ALWAYS MEANT TO BE MY VESSEL.
YOU BASTARD!
I LET YOU RUN YOUR MOUTH, BUT...
...I AM ***NOT*** IN AGREEMENT WITH THIS!!
I'D RATHER DIE THAN HAND MYSELF OVER TO YOU!!

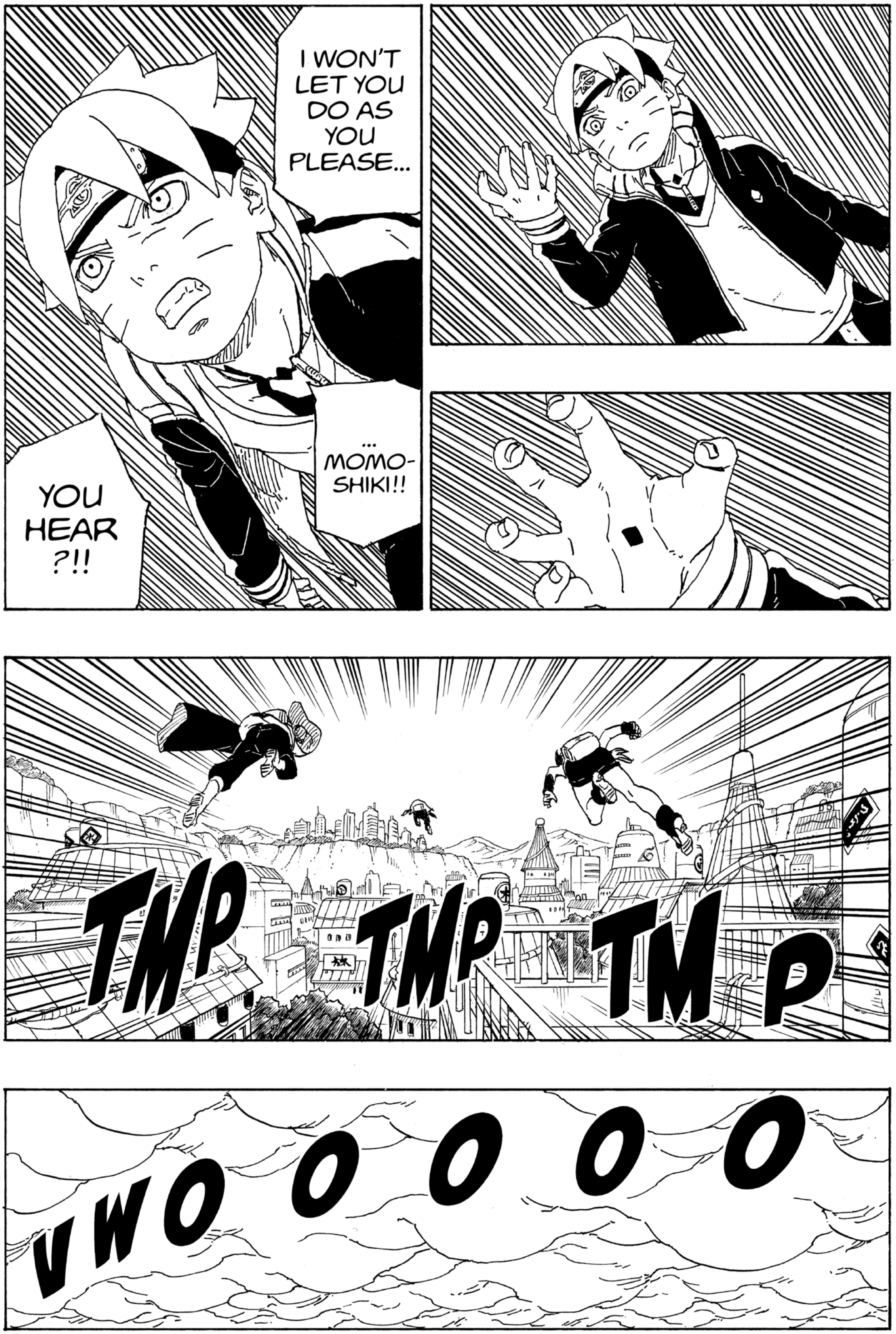

I WON'T LET YOU DIE.
EVER AGAIN.
YOU ARE MY PRECIOUS VESSEL-- MY LIFE.
NO ONE CAN HAVE YOU.
THAT'S MY LINE, YOU FREELOADER!!
YOU'VE OUTLIVED YOUR TIME. GET LOST!!
SPUTTER ALL YOU WANT.
YOUR FATE IS ALREADY DECIDED.
YOU'RE GONNA SHOVE MY CONSCIOUSNESS INTO A CORNER?!
FINE!! IF THAT'S EVEN POSSIBLE...
...I'LL MAKE SURE YOU CAN NEVER EMERGE AGAIN!
YOU'LL BE THE ONE TO DESPAIR IN THE FUTURE!!
I LOOK FORWARD TO IT, UZUMAKI BORUTO.

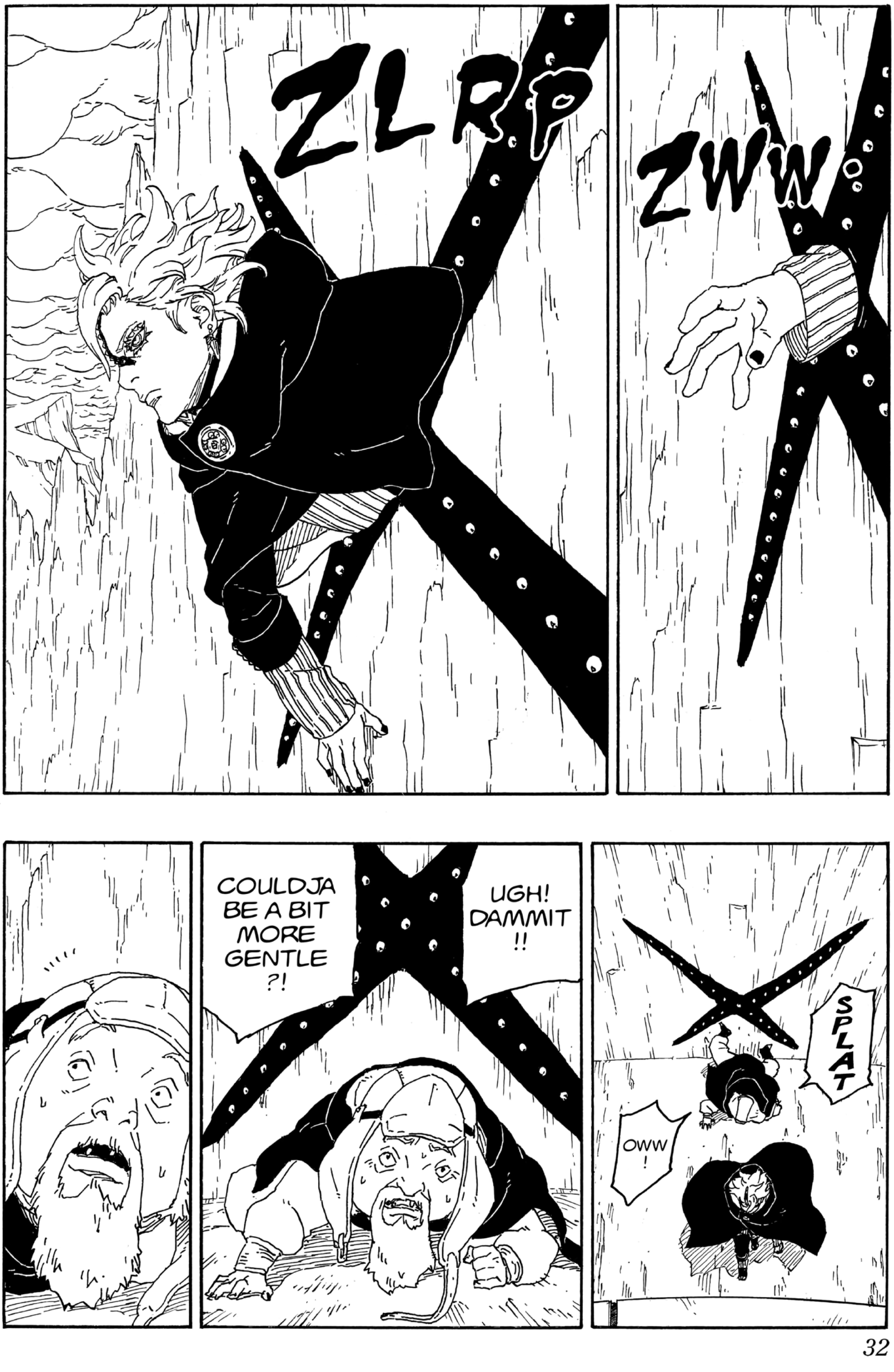

HEH HEH HEH HEH...
HEY!!
HOLD UP, YOU BASTARD!!
TAK
!
BORUTO!
TMP

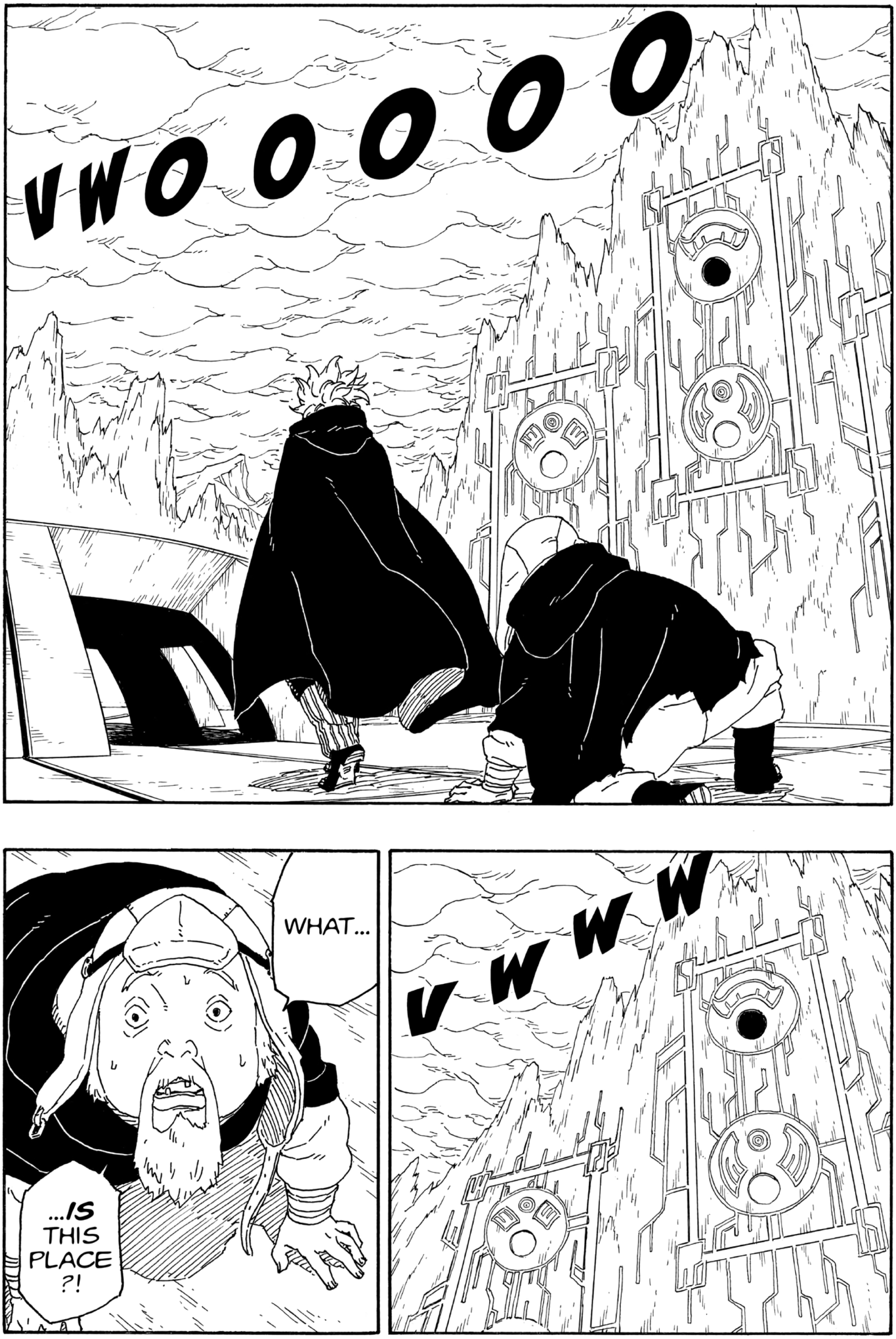

OH! YOU LOOK LIKE YOU'RE PREPARED ALREADY.
WOW! THAT'S PRETTY QUICK, FOR YOU.
ARE YOU ALL PUMPED CUZ OF THE MISSION?
...
?
BORUTO ?
YOU GOTTA BE KIDDING!! GIMME A BREAK!!
I'LL DECIDE MY OWN FATE, THANK YOU VERY MUCH!!

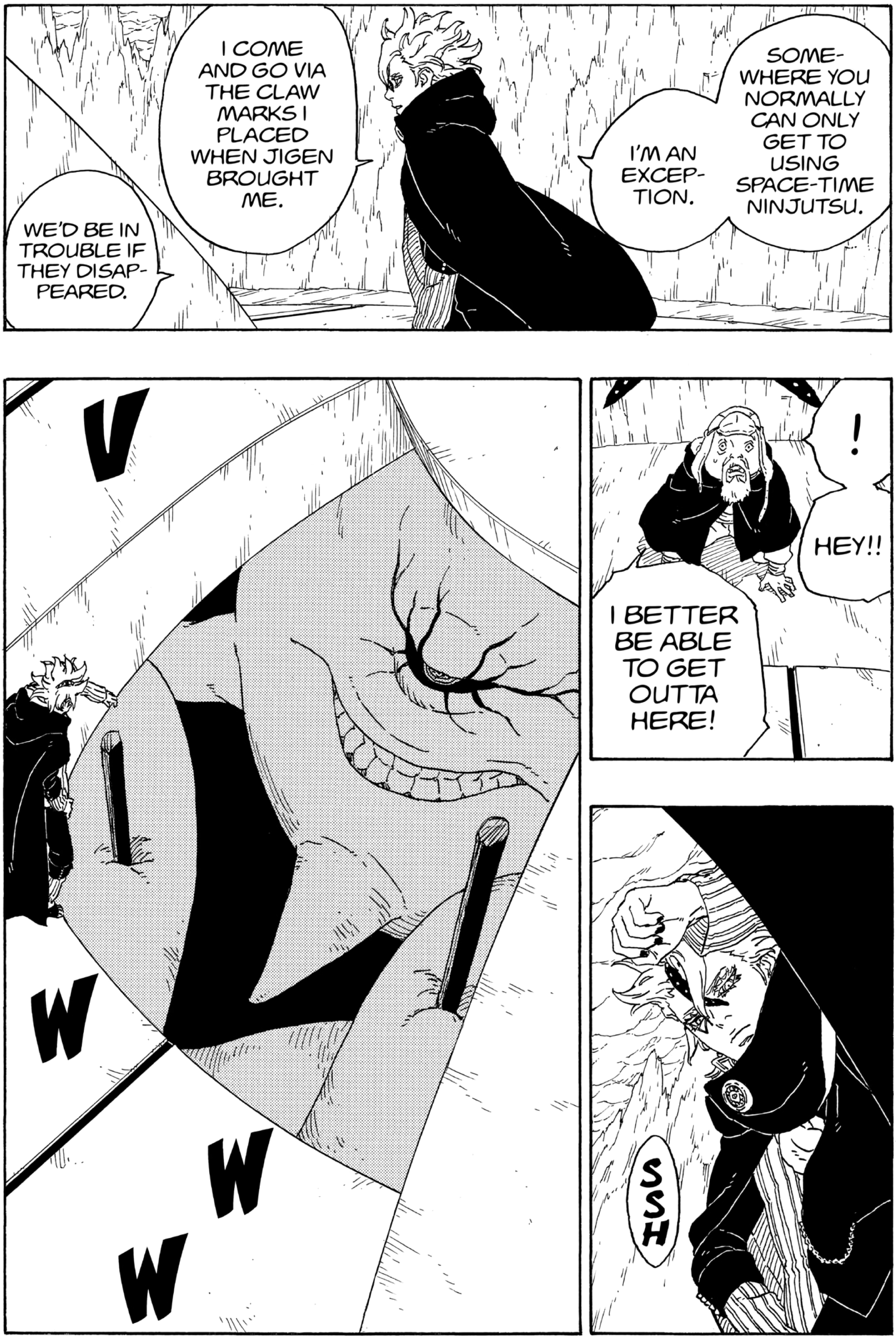

GKK
VSH
OH YEAH!!!
HUH?!
WHA...
WHAT IS UP WITH YOU?!
THIS IS BEYOND PUMPED...
YOU'RE BEING WEIRD!
HEY, THAT'S MY LINE!!
WHAT THE?!!
EVEN IF HE DIES AND COMES BACK...
...OR BECOMES OHTSUTSUKI...
...BORUTO WILL LIKELY ALWAYS BE BORUTO.

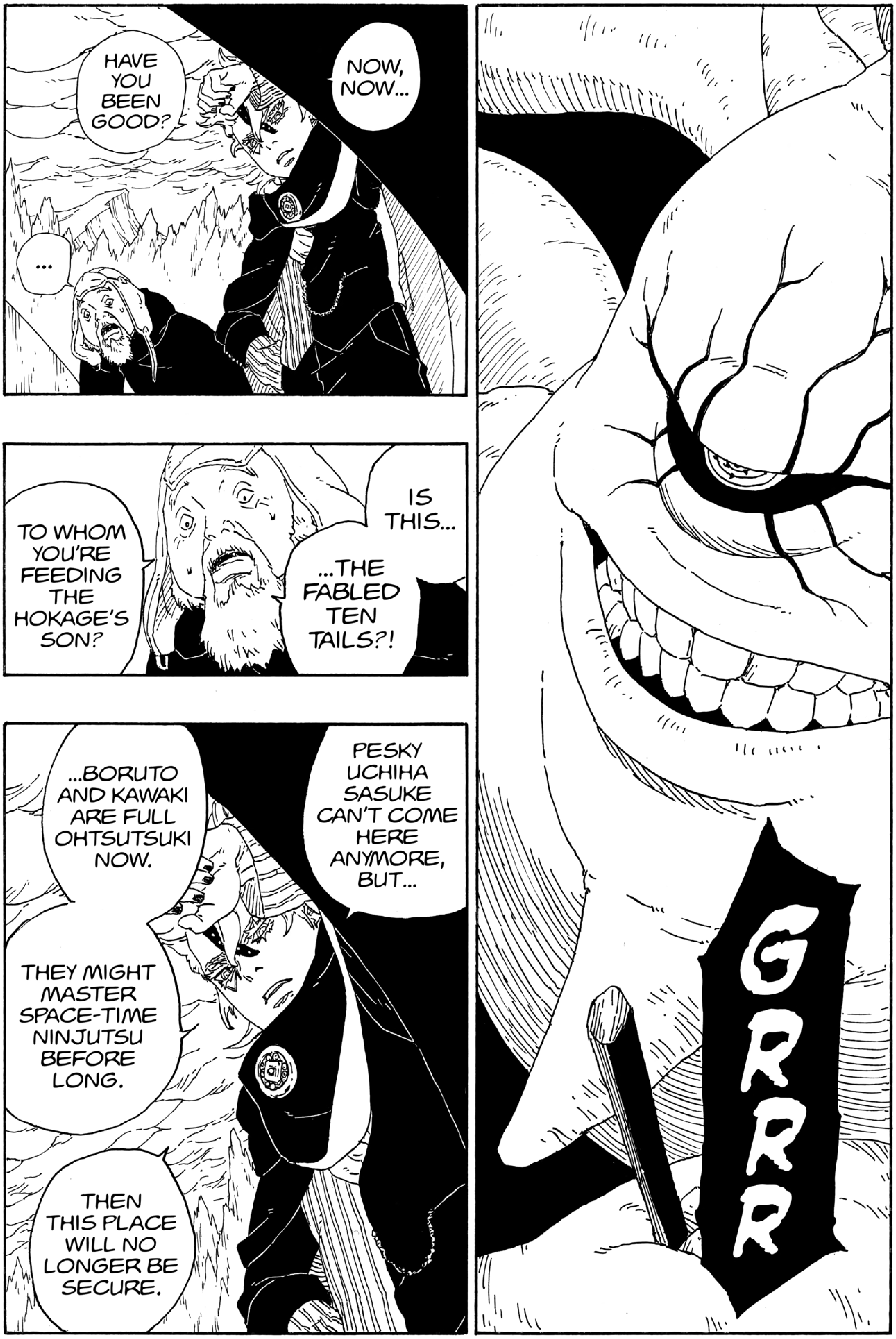

...
MOM?
UM...
I WAS JUST THINKING...
...THAT IF I BECAME A NINJA...
...MAYBE I COULD HELP BORUTO OUT A LITTLE.
OR WOULD YOU WORRY EVEN MORE?
...
HIMAWARI...

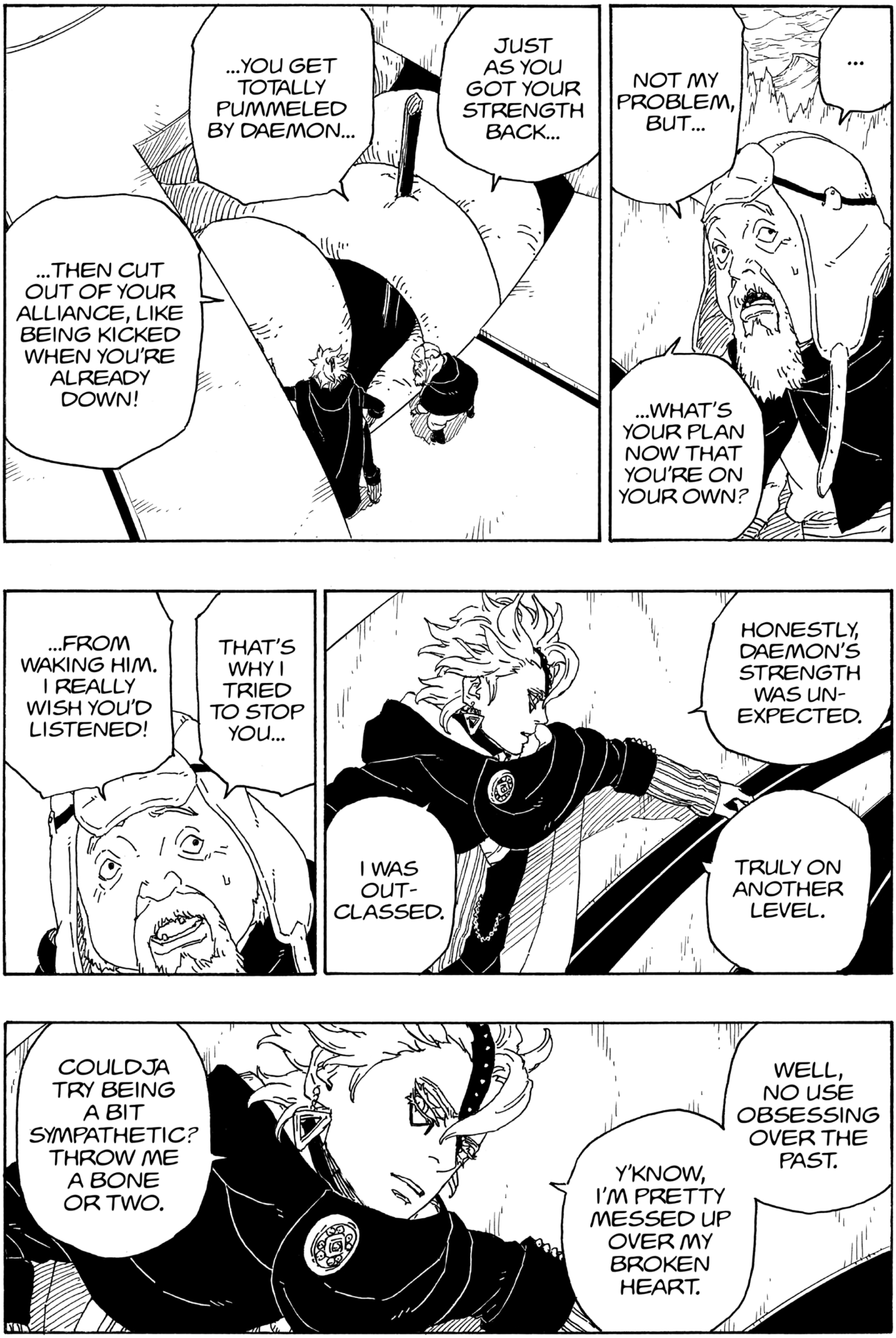

I WON'T LET YOU DO AS YOU PLEASE...
...MOMOSHIKI!!
YOU HEAR ?!!
TMP TMP TMP
VWOOOOO

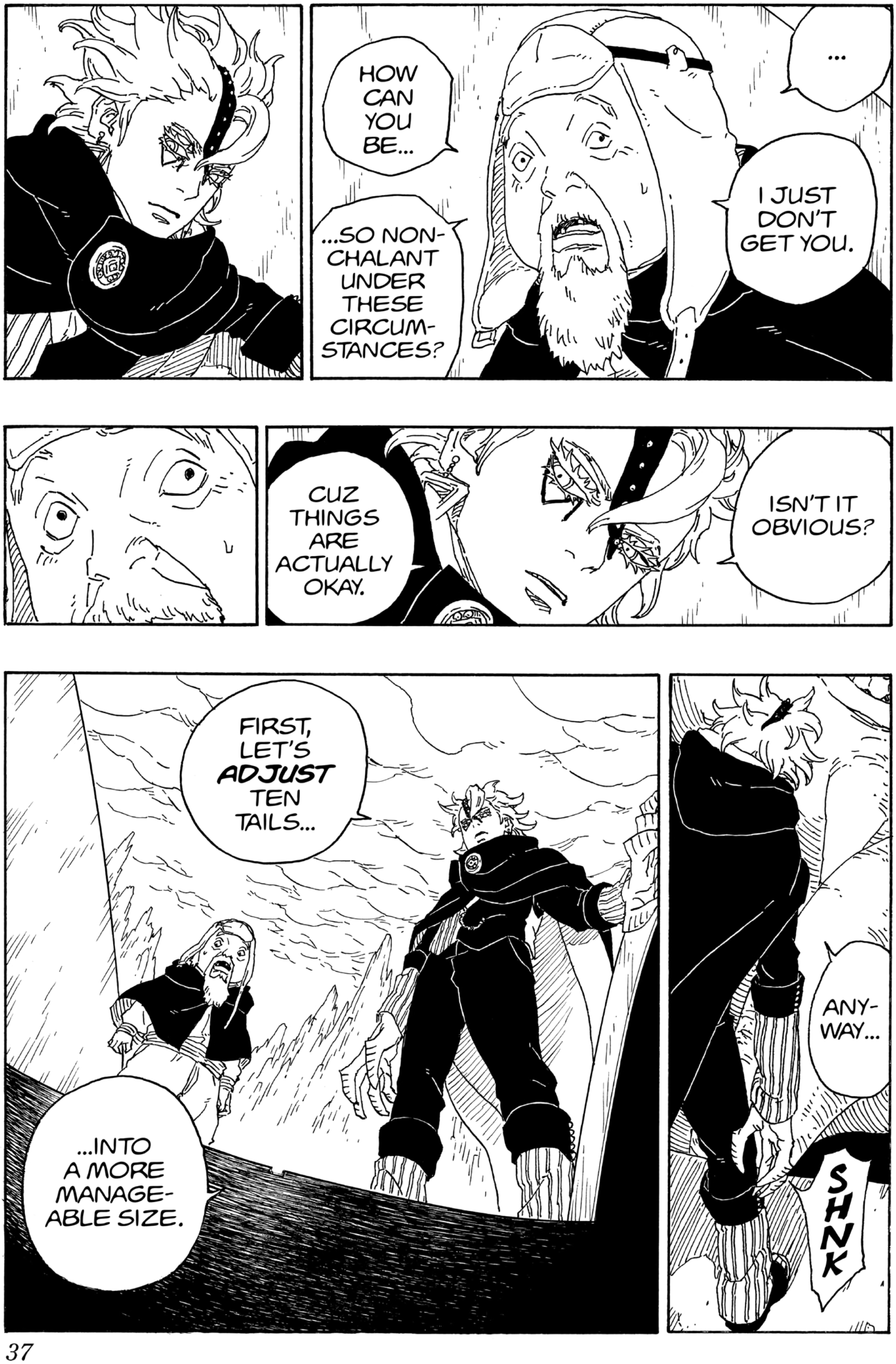

ZWW
ZLRP
SPLAT
OWW!
UGH! DAMMIT!!
COULDJA BE A BIT MORE GENTLE?!

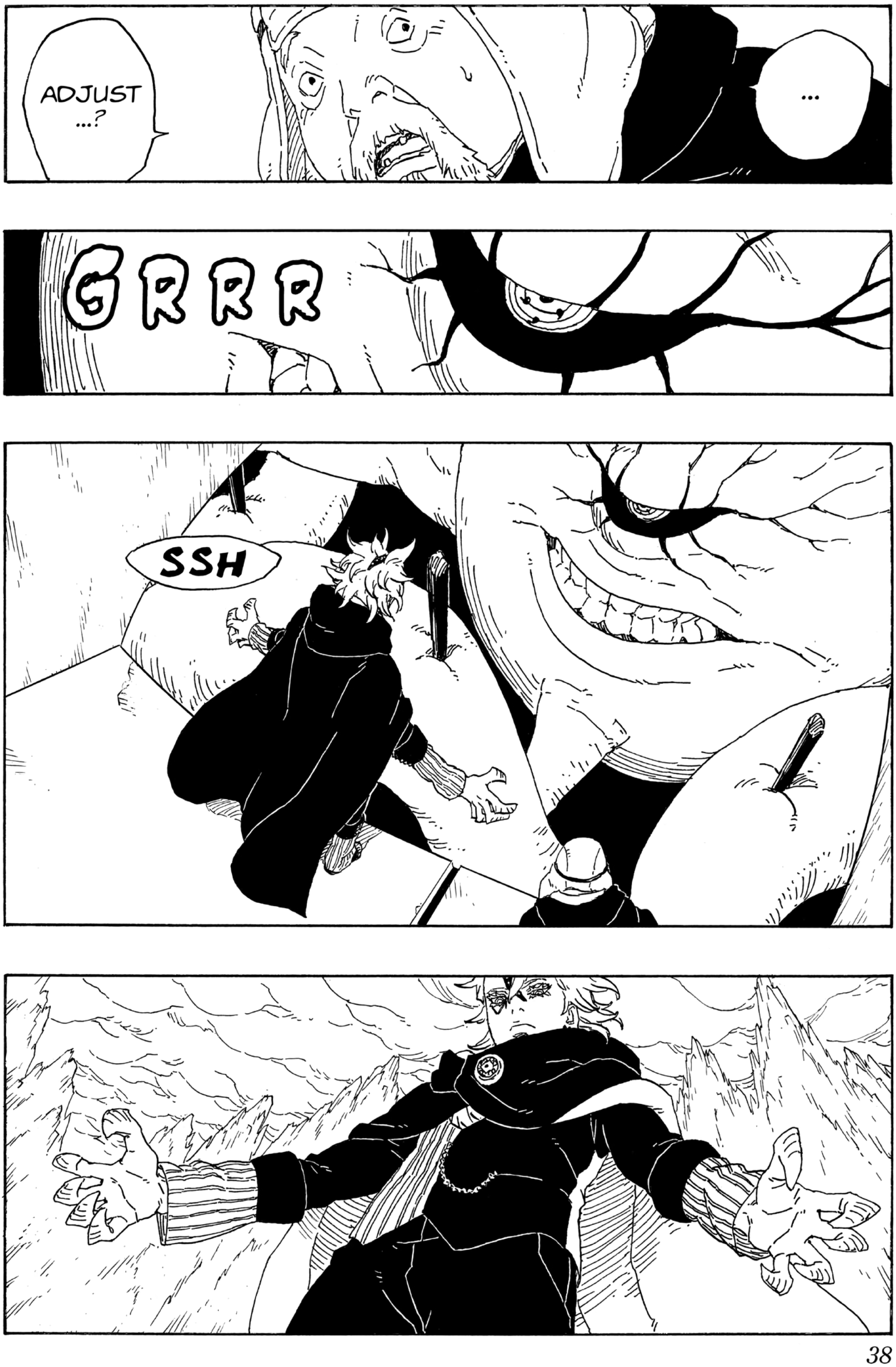

VWOOOOOO
VWWWW
WHAT...
...IS THIS PLACE ?!

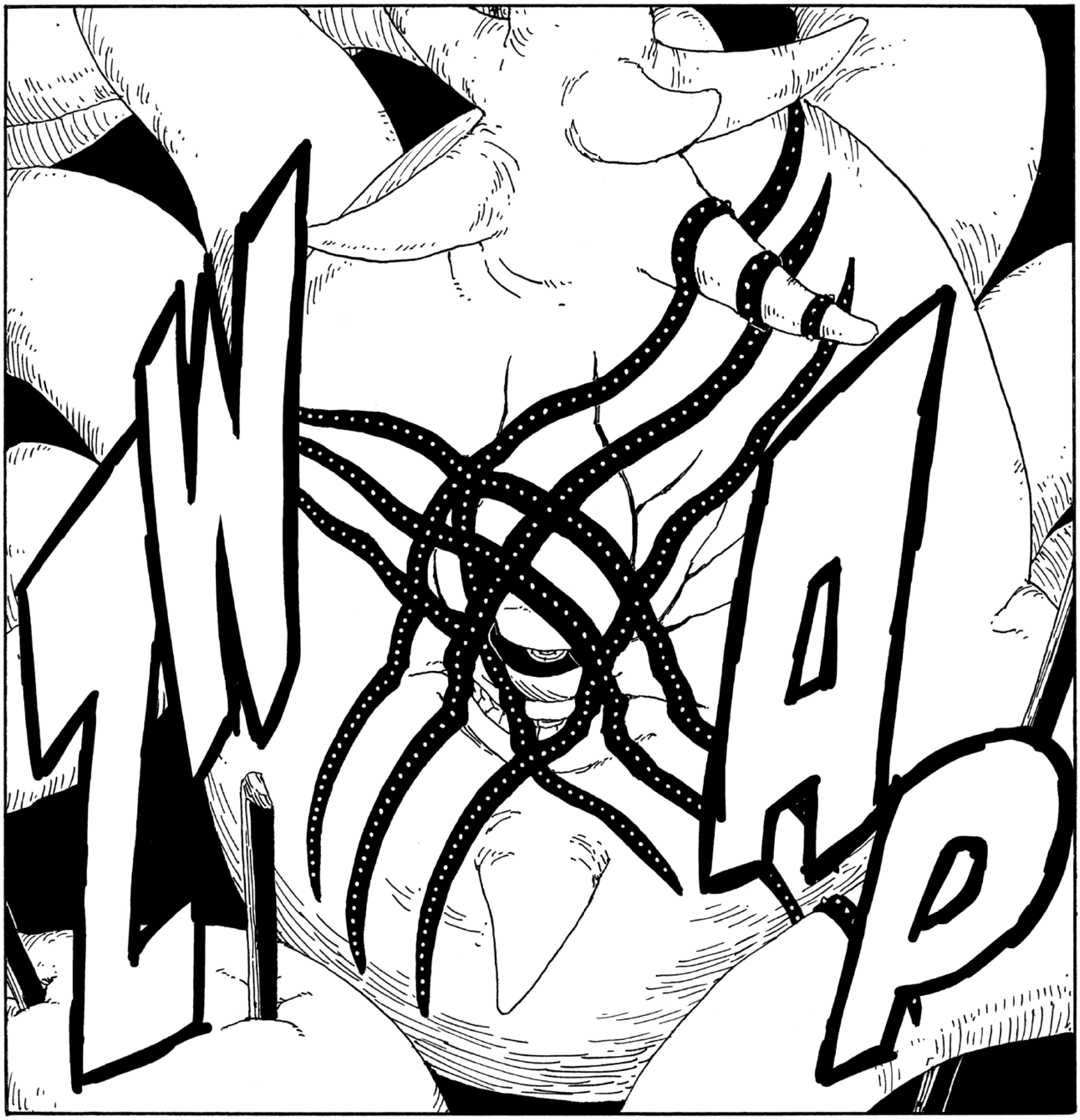

SOME-WHERE YOU NORMALLY CAN ONLY GET TO USING SPACE-TIME NINJUTSU.
I'M AN EXCEPTION.
I COME AND GO VIA THE CLAW MARKS I PLACED WHEN JIGEN BROUGHT ME.
WE'D BE IN TROUBLE IF THEY DISAPPEARED.
!
HEY!!
I BETTER BE ABLE TO GET OUTTA HERE!
SSH
VWWWW

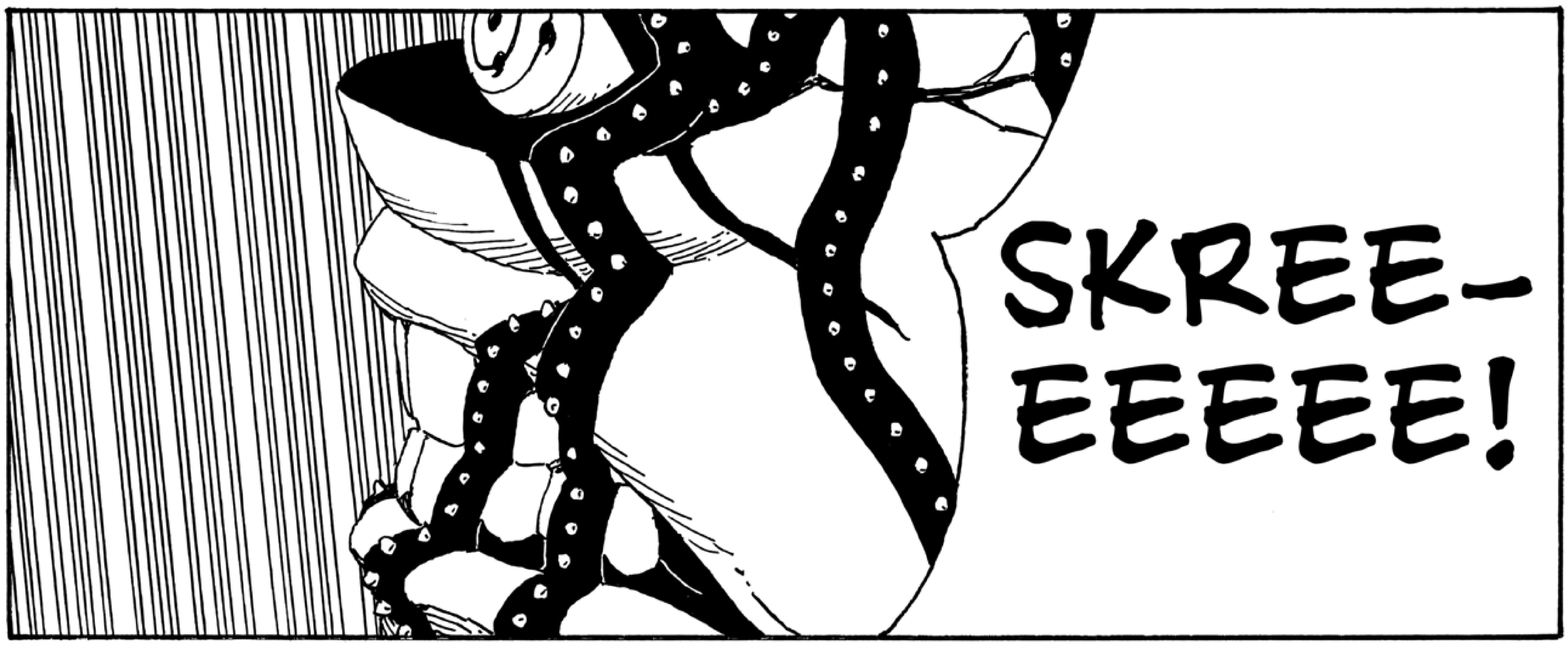

GRRR
NOW, NOW...
HAVE YOU BEEN GOOD?
...
IS THIS...
...THE FABLED TEN TAILS?!
TO WHOM YOU'RE FEEDING THE HOKAGE'S SON?
PESKY UCHIHA SASUKE CAN'T COME HERE ANYMORE, BUT...
...BORUTO AND KAWAKI ARE FULL OHTSUTSUKI NOW.
THEY MIGHT MASTER SPACE-TIME NINJUTSU BEFORE LONG.
THEN THIS PLACE WILL NO LONGER BE SECURE.

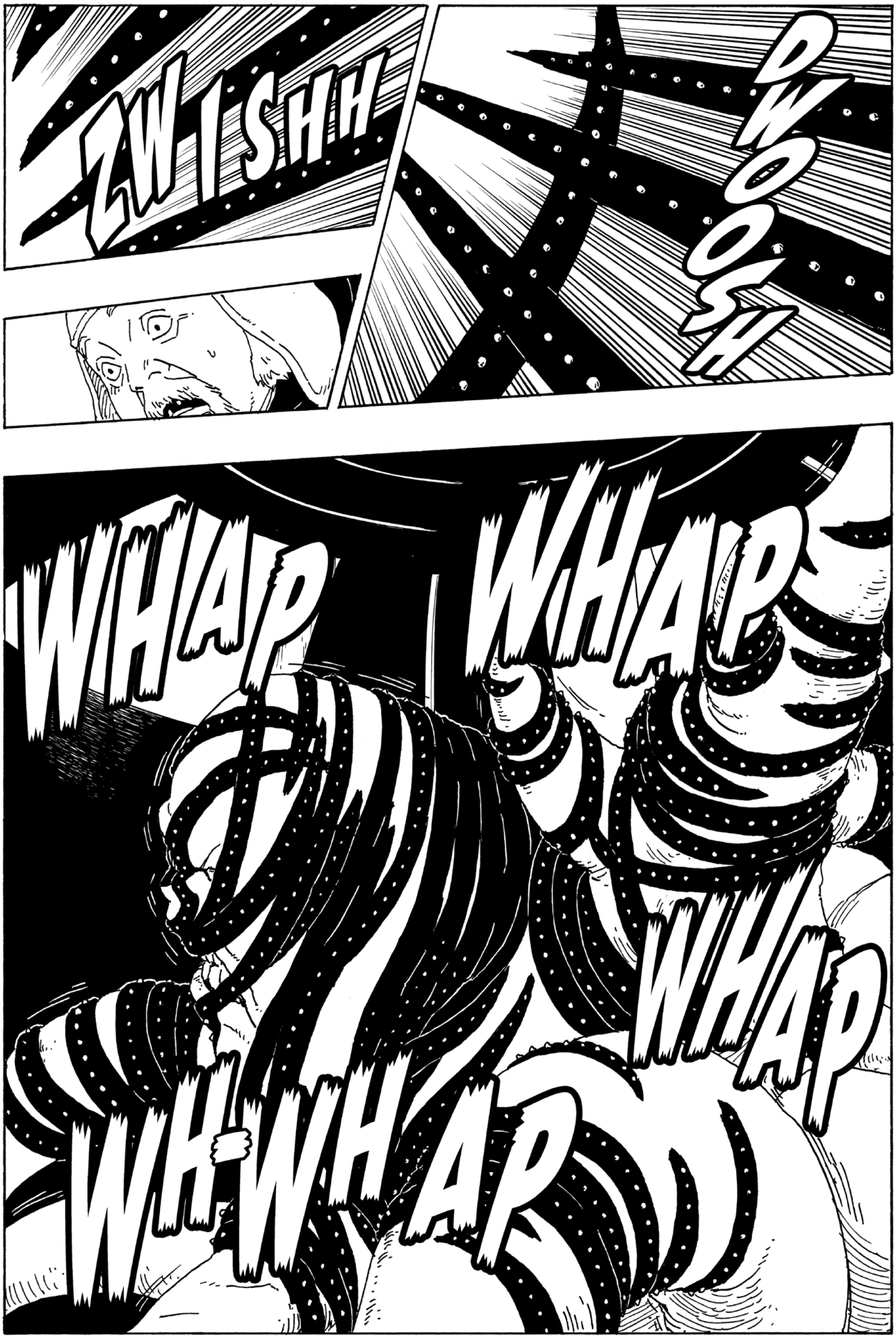

...
NOT MY PROBLEM, BUT...
...WHAT'S YOUR PLAN NOW THAT YOU'RE ON YOUR OWN?
JUST AS YOU GOT YOUR STRENGTH BACK...
...YOU GET TOTALLY PUMMELED BY DAEMON...
...THEN CUT OUT OF YOUR ALLIANCE, LIKE BEING KICKED WHEN YOU'RE ALREADY DOWN!
HONESTLY, DAEMON'S STRENGTH WAS UNEXPECTED.
TRULY ON ANOTHER LEVEL.
I WAS OUTCLASSED.
THAT'S WHY I TRIED TO STOP YOU...
...FROM WAKING HIM. I REALLY WISH YOU'D LISTENED!
WELL, NO USE OBSESSING OVER THE PAST.
Y'KNOW, I'M PRETTY MESSED UP OVER MY BROKEN HEART.
COULDJA TRY BEING A BIT SYMPATHETIC? THROW ME A BONE OR TWO.

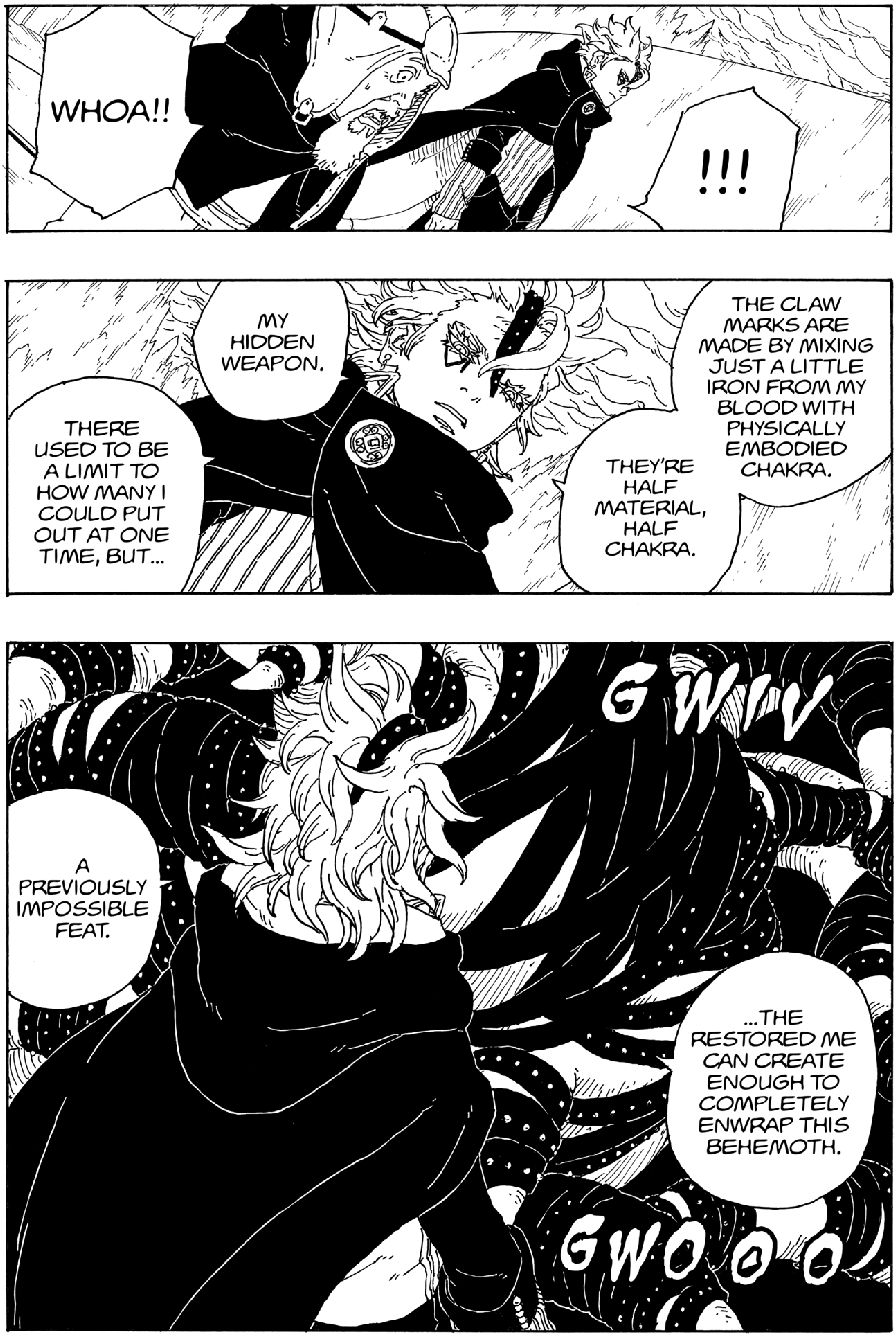

...
I JUST DON'T GET YOU.
HOW CAN YOU BE...
...SO NONCHALANT UNDER THESE CIRCUMSTANCES?
ISN'T IT OBVIOUS?
CUZ THINGS ARE ACTUALLY OKAY.
ANYWAY...
SHNK
FIRST, LET'S **ADJUST** TEN TAILS...
...INTO A MORE MANAGEABLE SIZE.

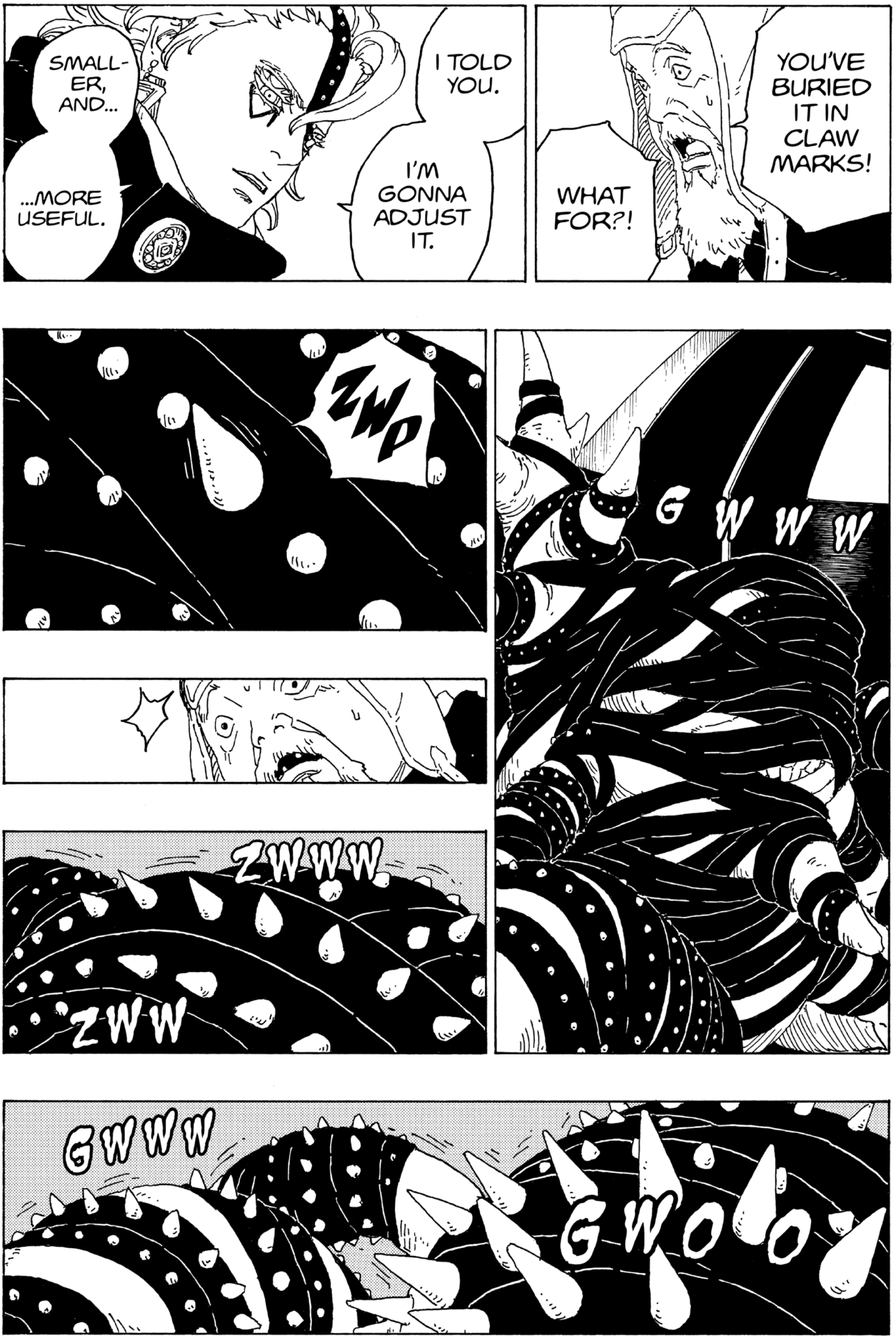

...
ADJUST ...?
GRRR
SSH

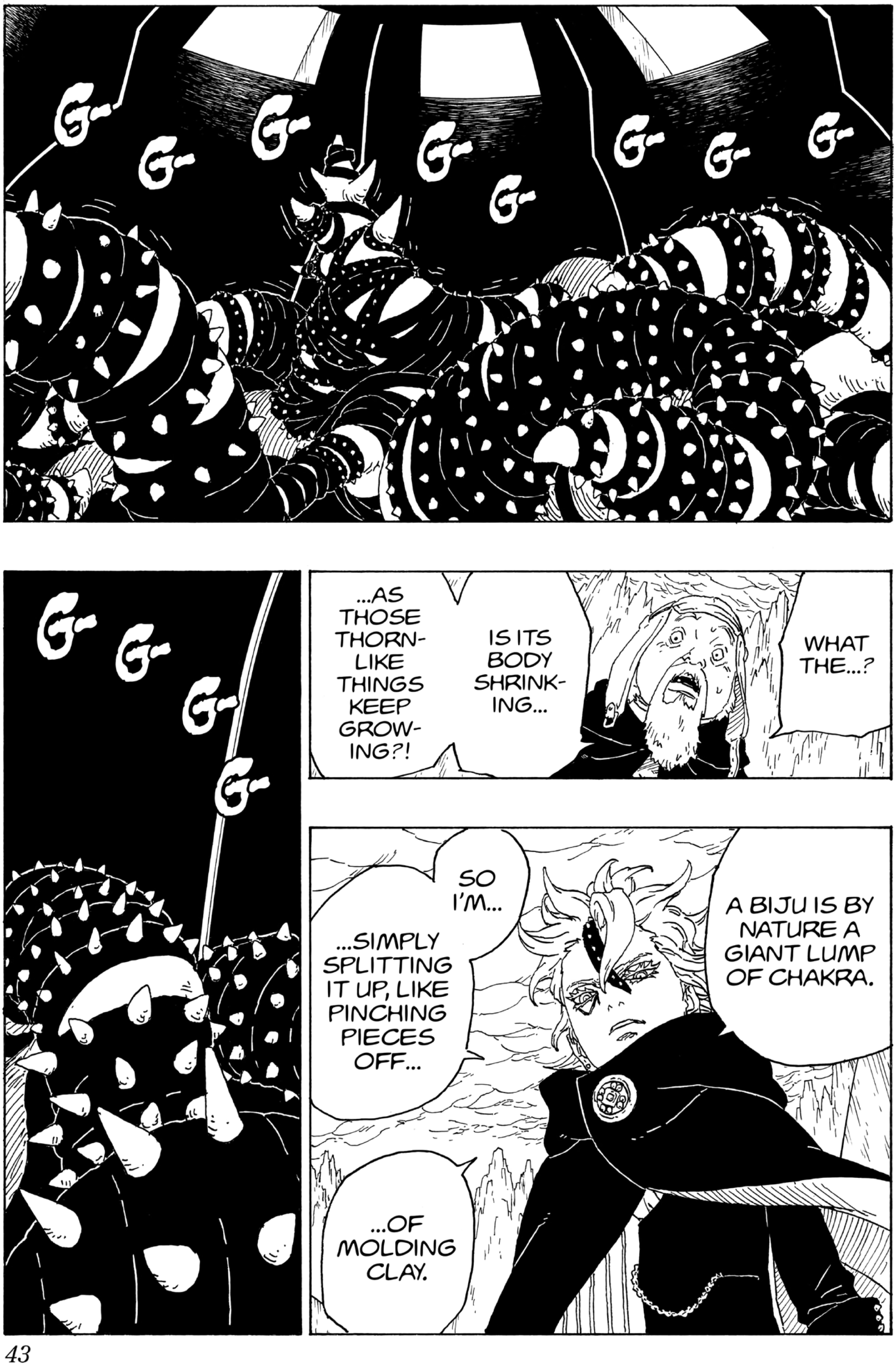

WHAP

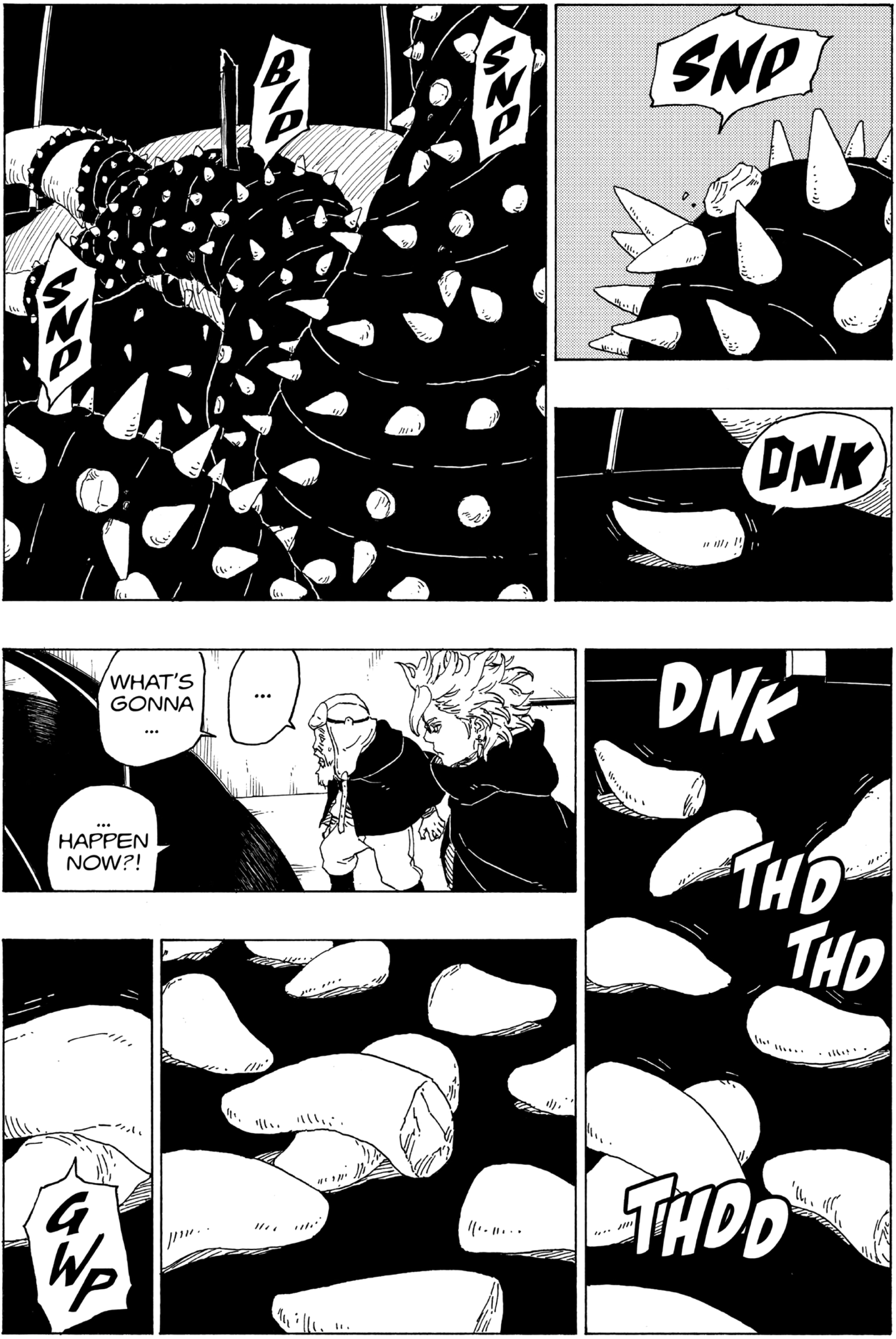

SKREE-EEEEEE!

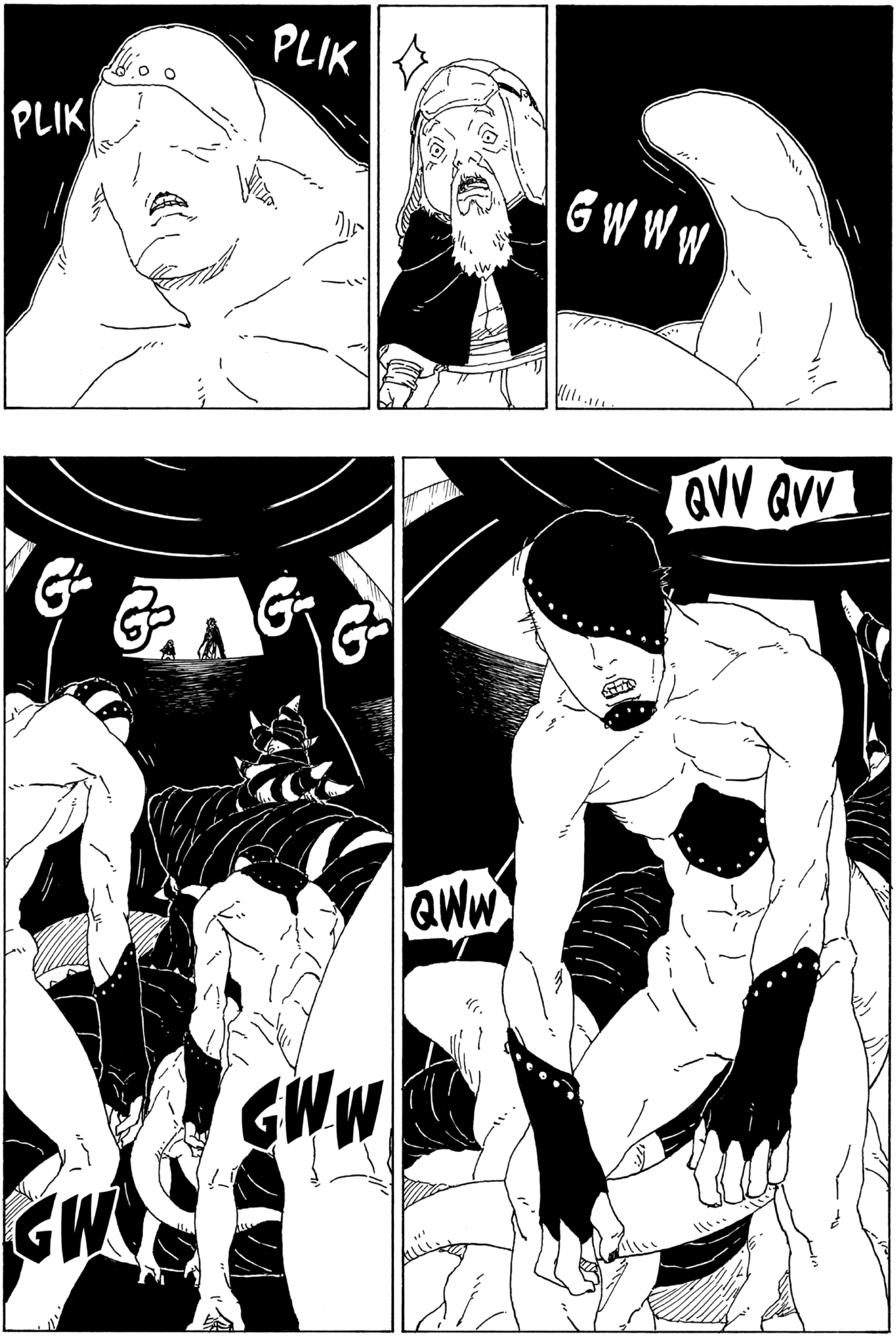

DWOOSH
ZWISHH
WHAP
WHAP
WHAP
WH-WHAP

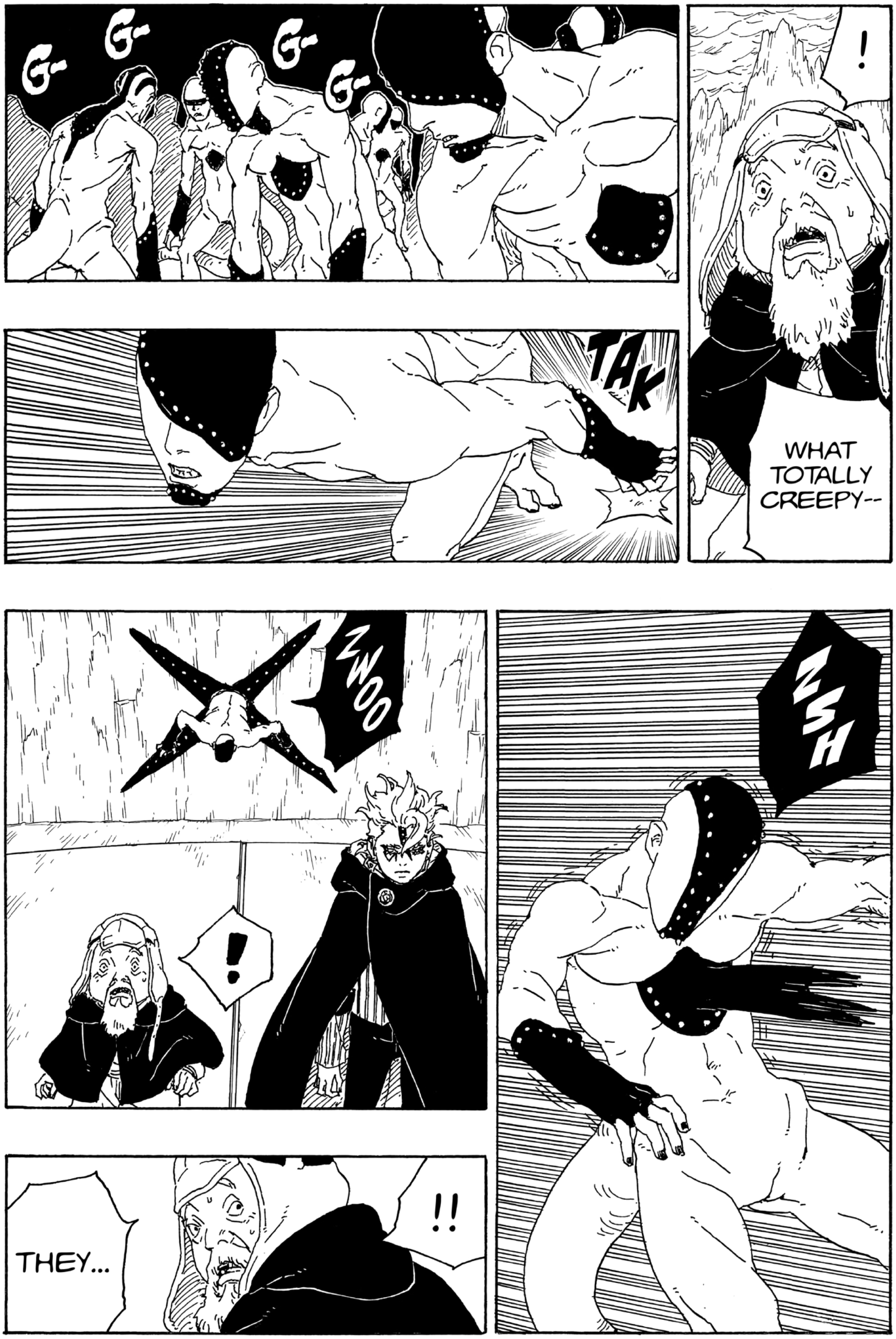

!!!
WHOA!!
THE CLAW MARKS ARE MADE BY MIXING JUST A LITTLE IRON FROM MY BLOOD WITH PHYSICALLY EMBODIED CHAKRA.
THEY'RE HALF MATERIAL, HALF CHAKRA.
MY HIDDEN WEAPON.
THERE USED TO BE A LIMIT TO HOW MANY I COULD PUT OUT AT ONE TIME, BUT...
GWIV
...THE RESTORED ME CAN CREATE ENOUGH TO COMPLETELY ENWRAP THIS BEHEMOTH.
A PREVIOUSLY IMPOSSIBLE FEAT.
GWOOOO

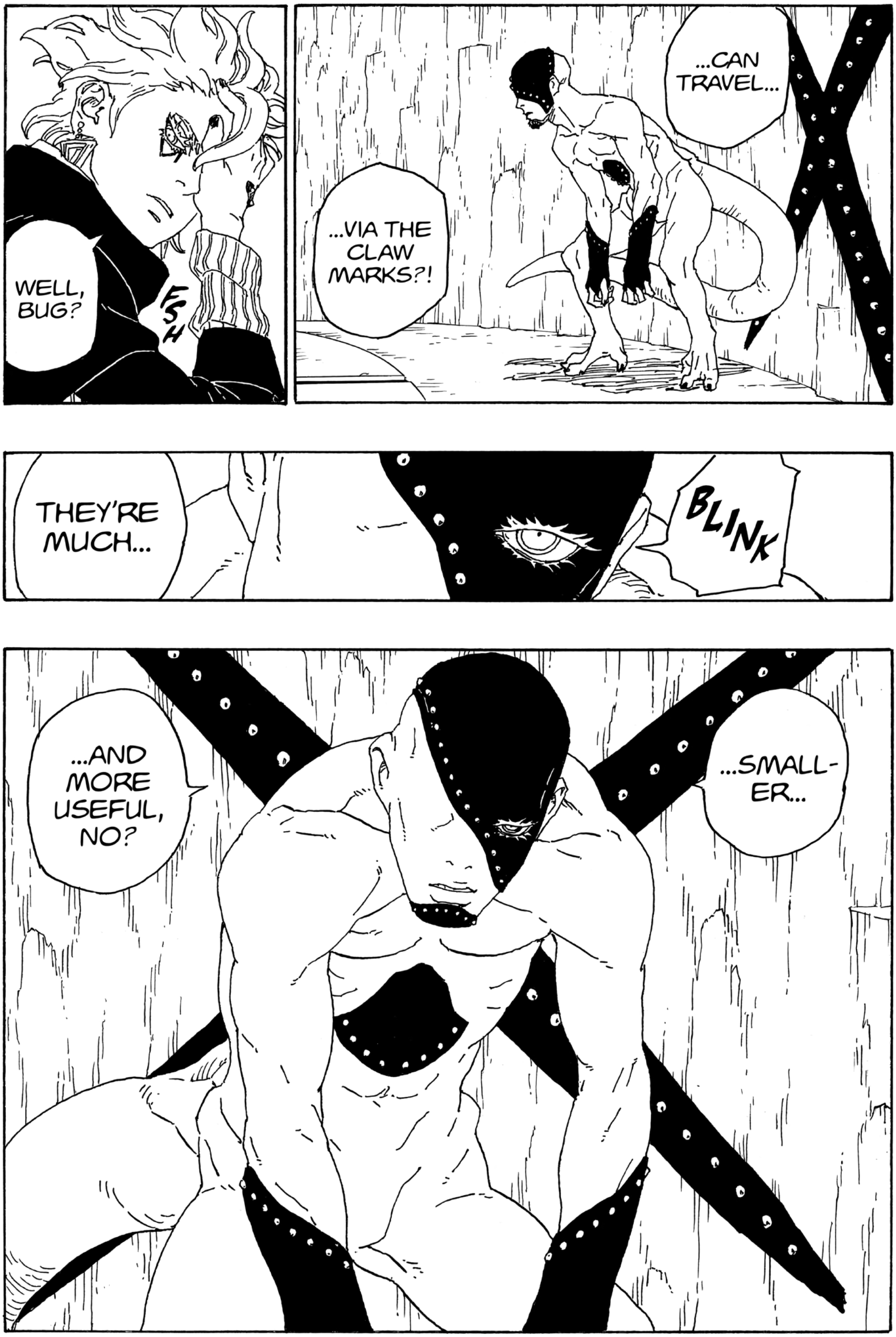

YOU'VE BURIED IT IN CLAW MARKS!
WHAT FOR?!
I TOLD YOU.
I'M GONNA ADJUST IT.
SMALLER, AND...
...MORE USEFUL.
G W W W
ZWP
ZWWW
ZWW
GWWW
GWOOO


G-
G-
G-
G-
G-
G-
G-
G-
G-
WHAT THE...?
IS ITS BODY SHRINKING...
...AS THOSE THORN-LIKE THINGS KEEP GROWING?!
A BIJU IS BY NATURE A GIANT LUMP OF CHAKRA.
SO I'M...
...SIMPLY SPLITTING IT UP, LIKE PINCHING PIECES OFF...
...OF MOLDING CLAY.
G-
G-
G-
G-


SNP
DNK
SNP
BIP
SNP
DNK
THD
THD
THDD
...
WHAT'S GONNA ...
... HAPPEN NOW?!
GWP


GWWW
PLIK
PLIK
QVV QVV
QWW
G-
G-
G-
G-
GWW
GW

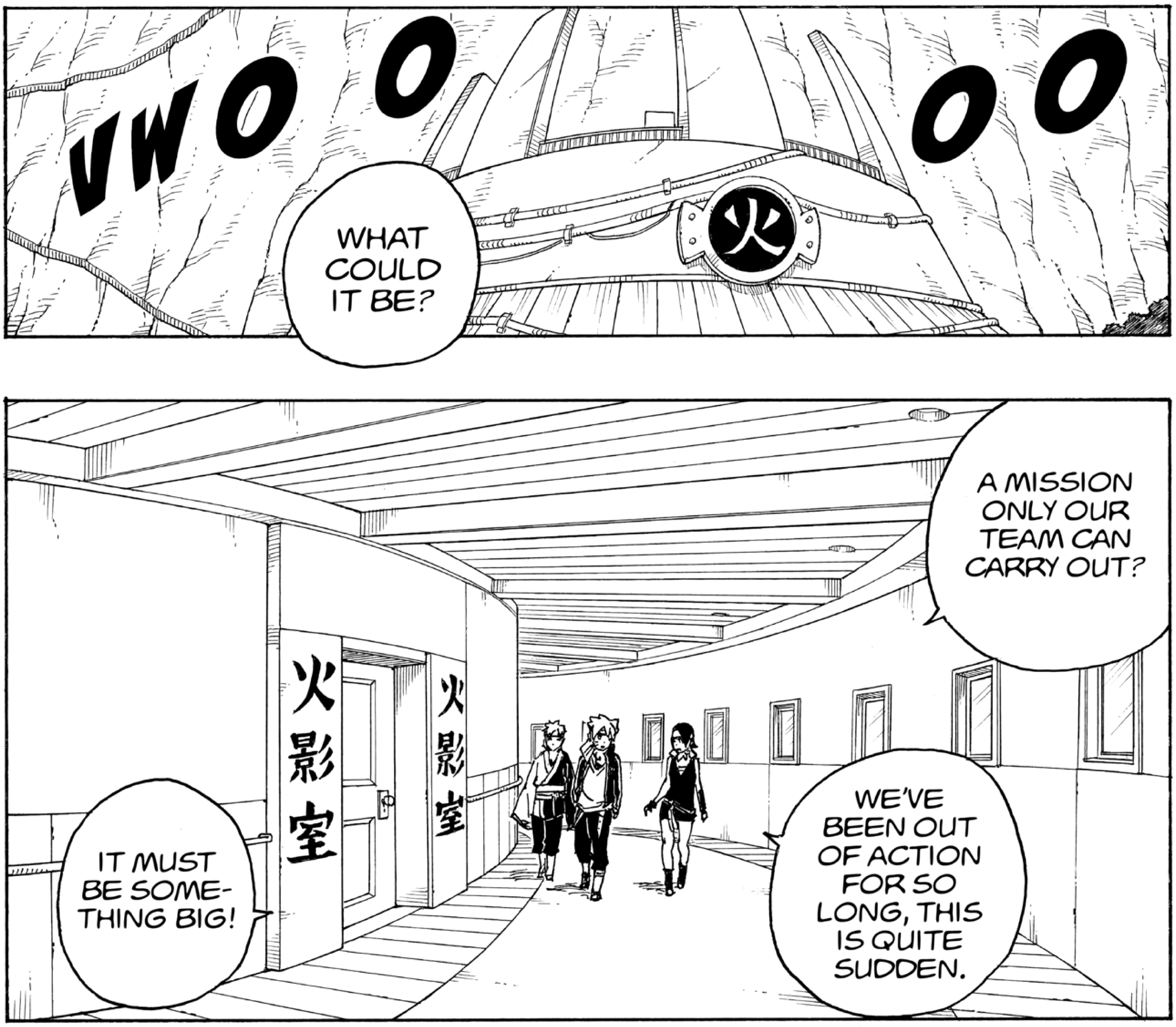

!
WHAT TOTALLY CREEPY--
G-
G-
G-
G-
TAK
ZSH
ZWOO
!
!!
THEY...


...CAN TRAVEL...
...VIA THE CLAW MARKS?!
FSH
WELL, BUG?
BLINK
THEY'RE MUCH...
...SMALLER...
...AND MORE USEFUL, NO?

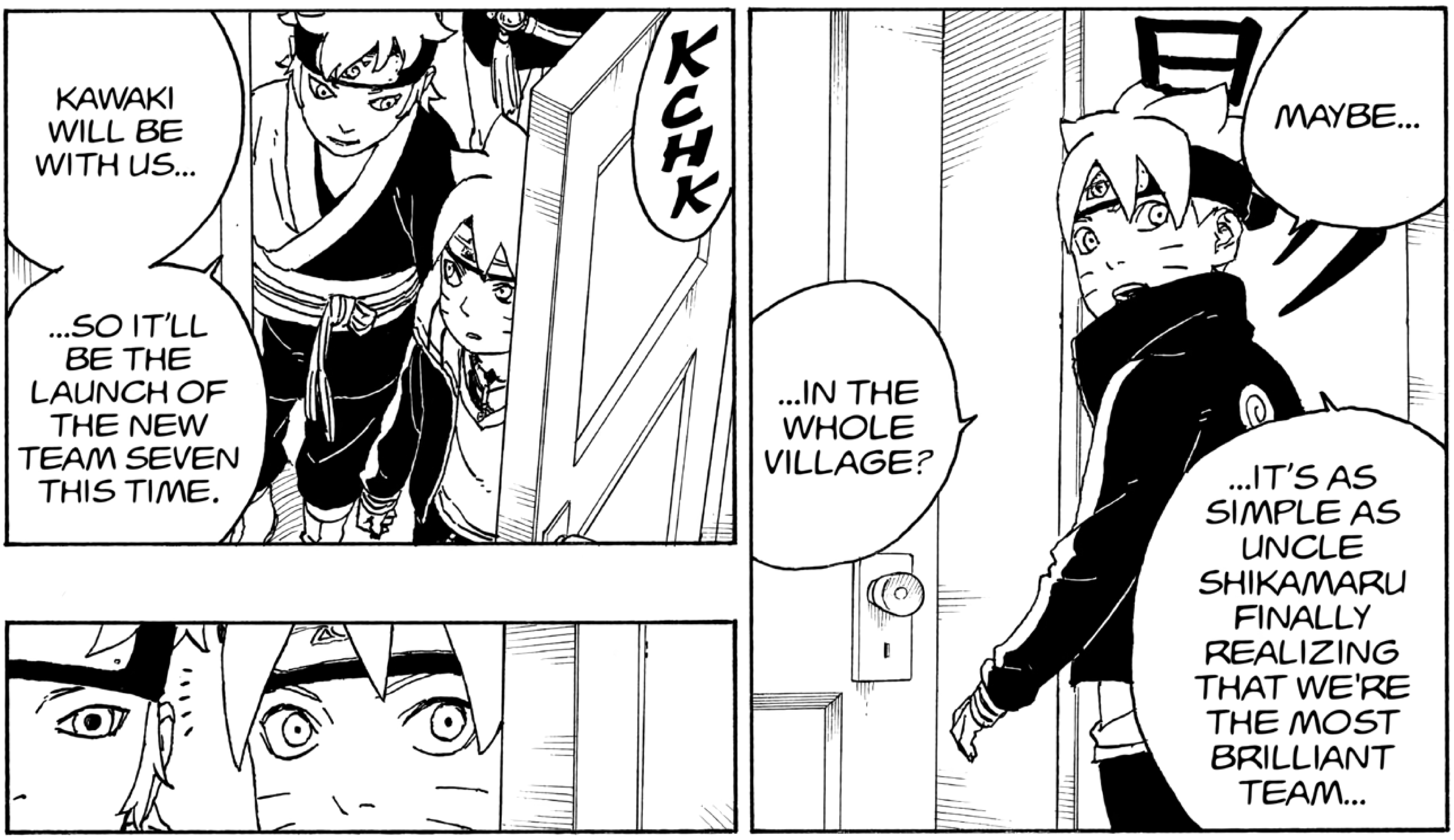
BORUTO

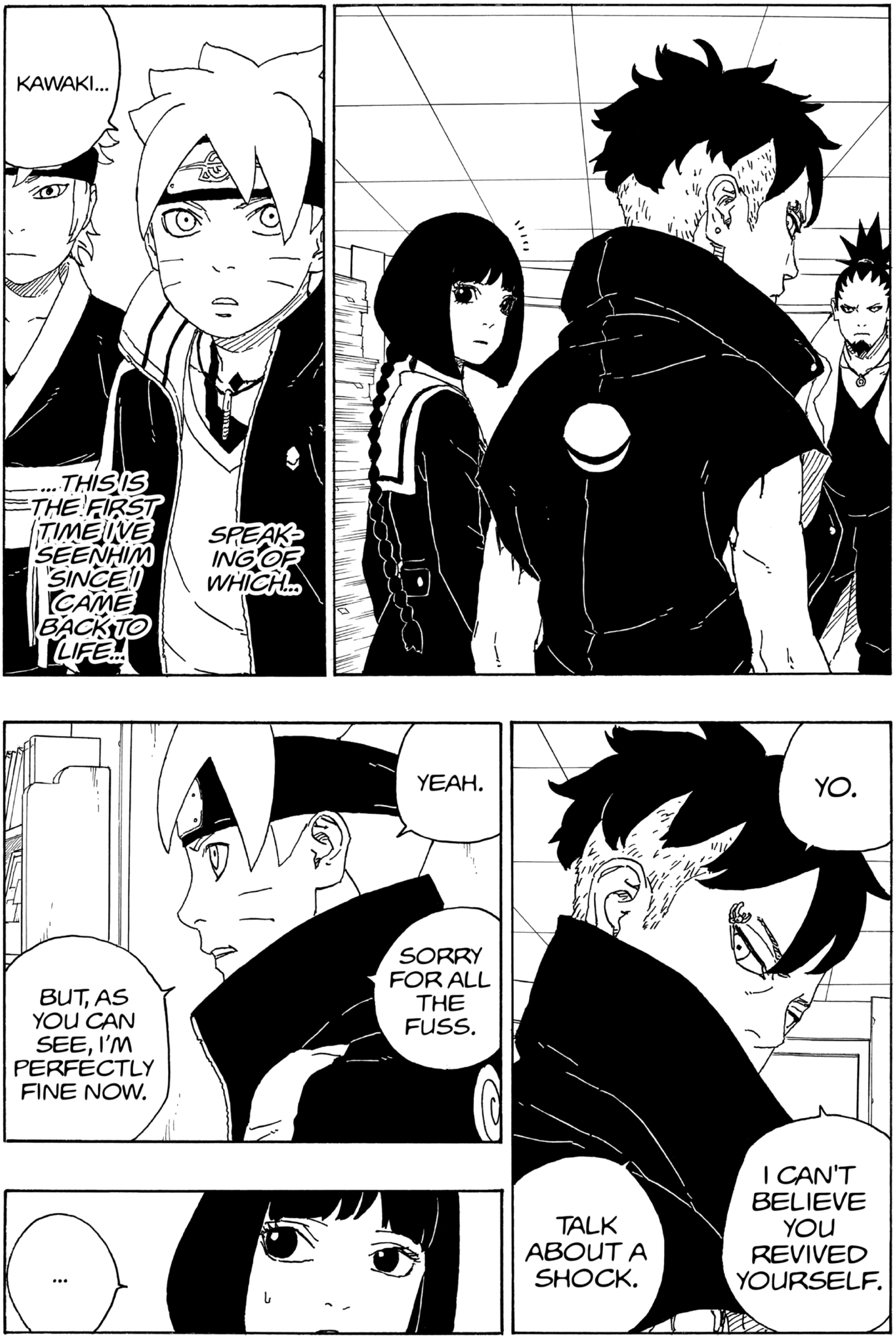
-NARUTO NEXT GENERATIONS-

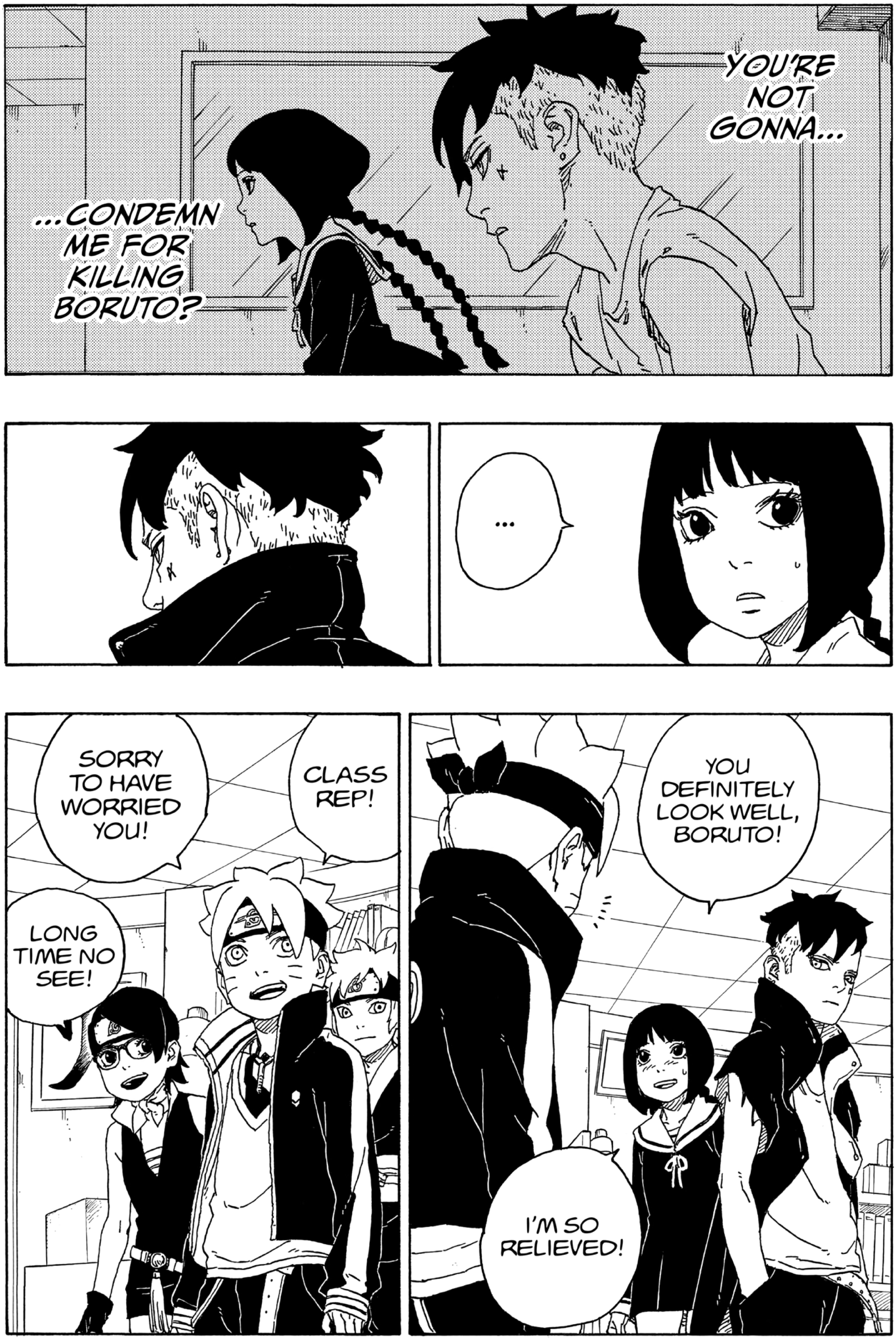
Number 73: A Special Mission

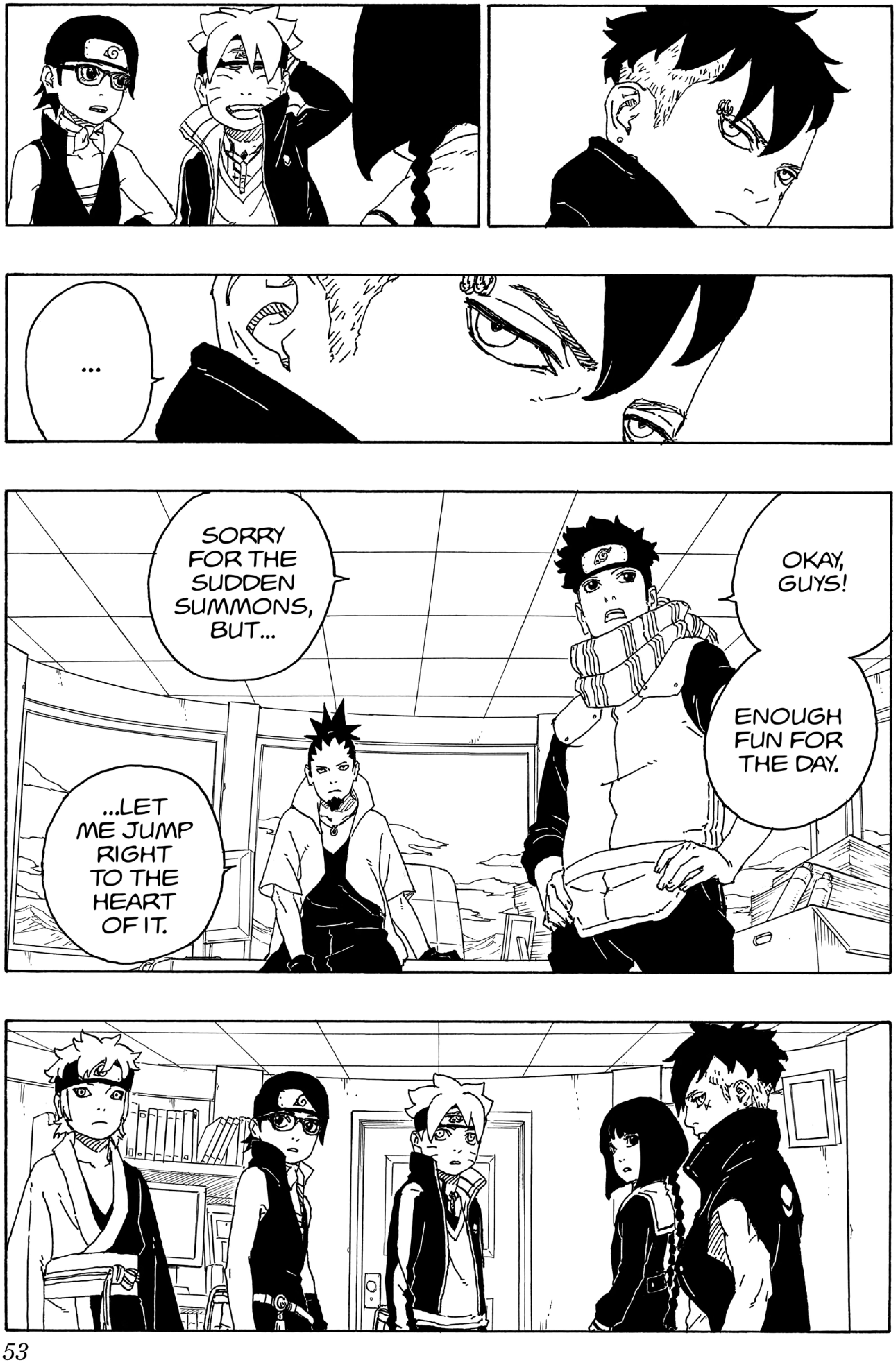

VWOOOOO
WHAT COULD IT BE?
A MISSION ONLY OUR TEAM CAN CARRY OUT?
WE'VE BEEN OUT OF ACTION FOR SO LONG, THIS IS QUITE SUDDEN.
火影室
火影室
IT MUST BE SOMETHING BIG!

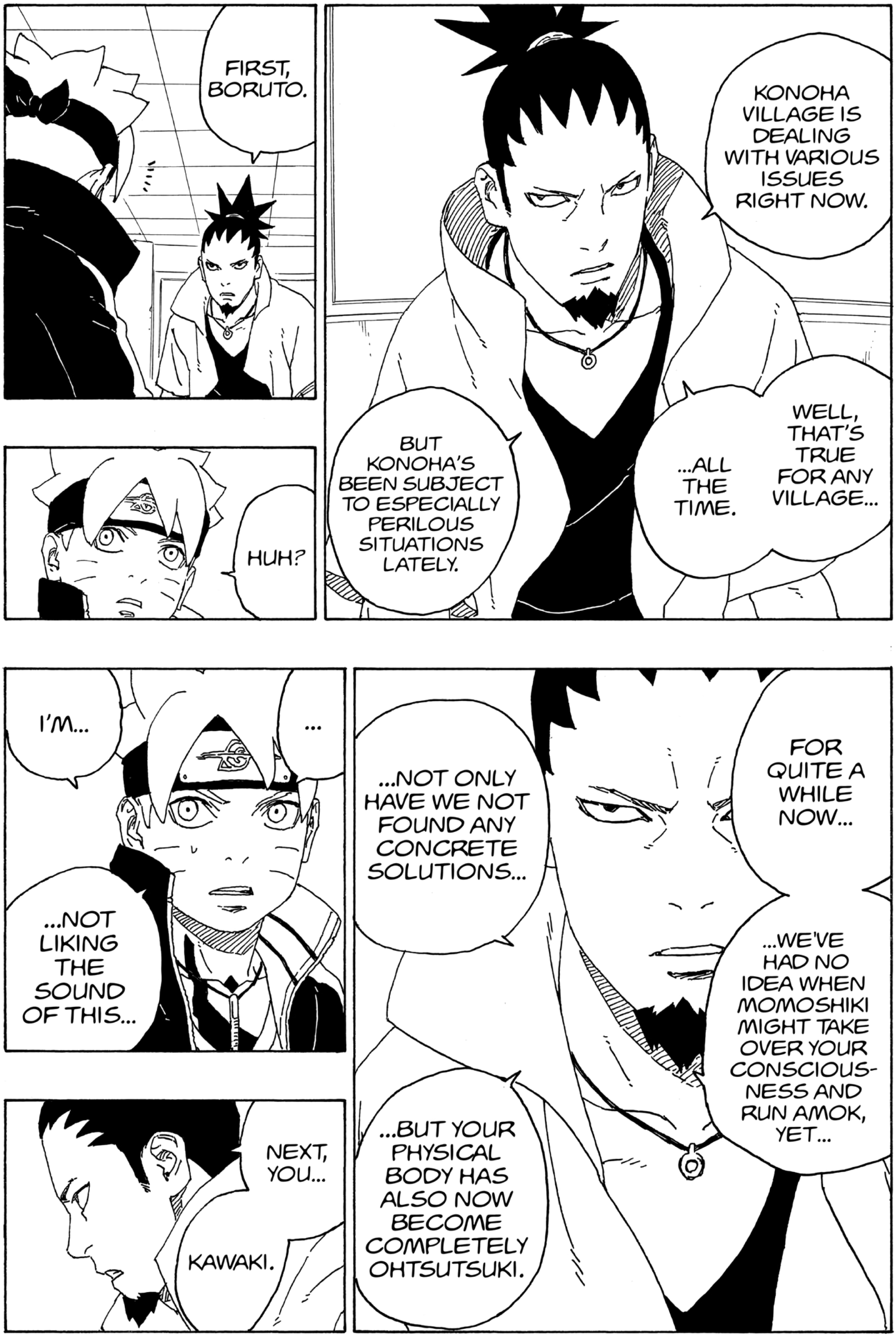
*SIGNS: HOKAGE'S OFFICE

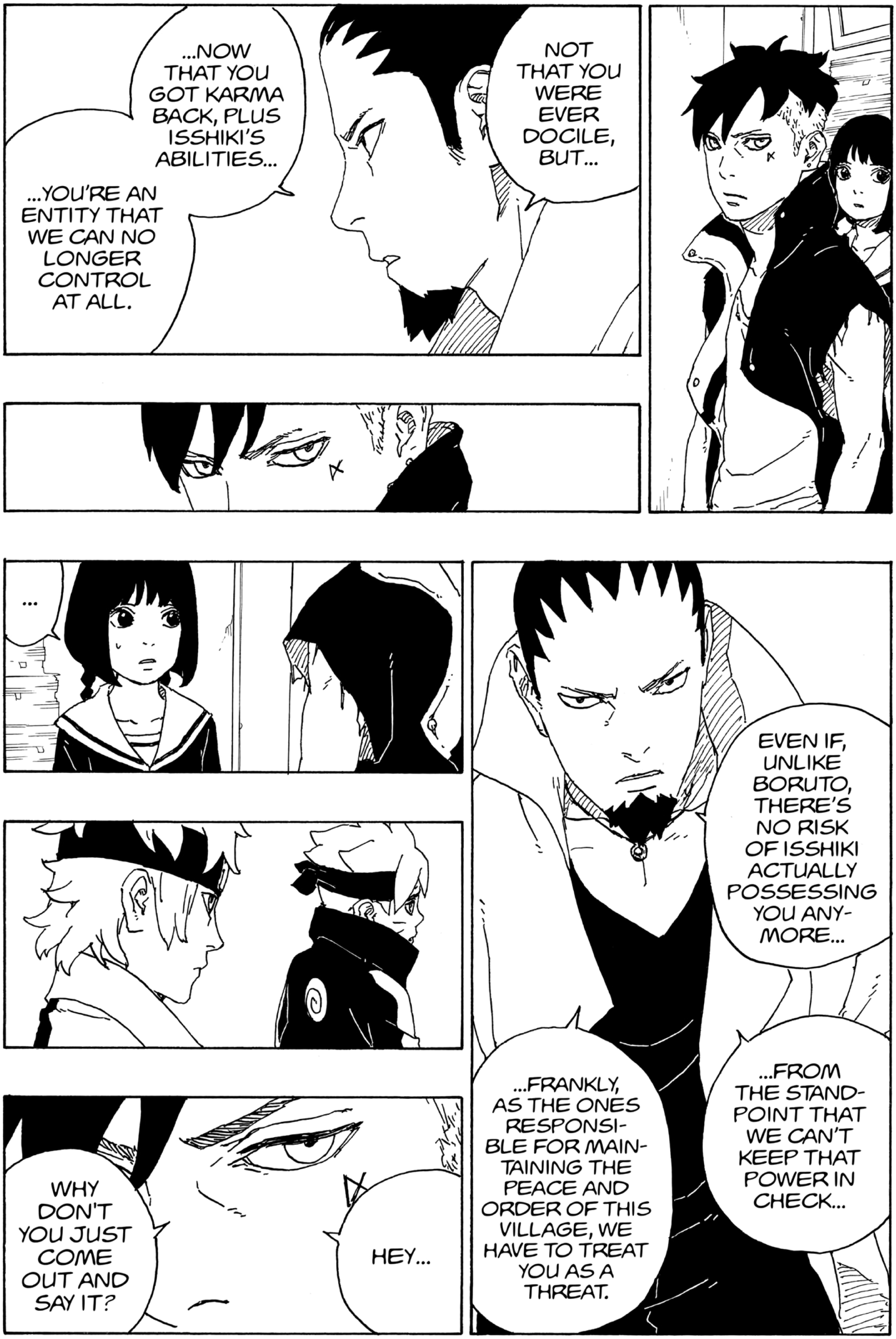

MAYBE...
...IT'S AS SIMPLE AS UNCLE SHIKAMARU FINALLY REALIZING THAT WE'RE THE MOST BRILLIANT TEAM...
...IN THE WHOLE VILLAGE?
KCHK
KAWAKI WILL BE WITH US...
...SO IT'LL BE THE LAUNCH OF THE NEW TEAM SEVEN THIS TIME.

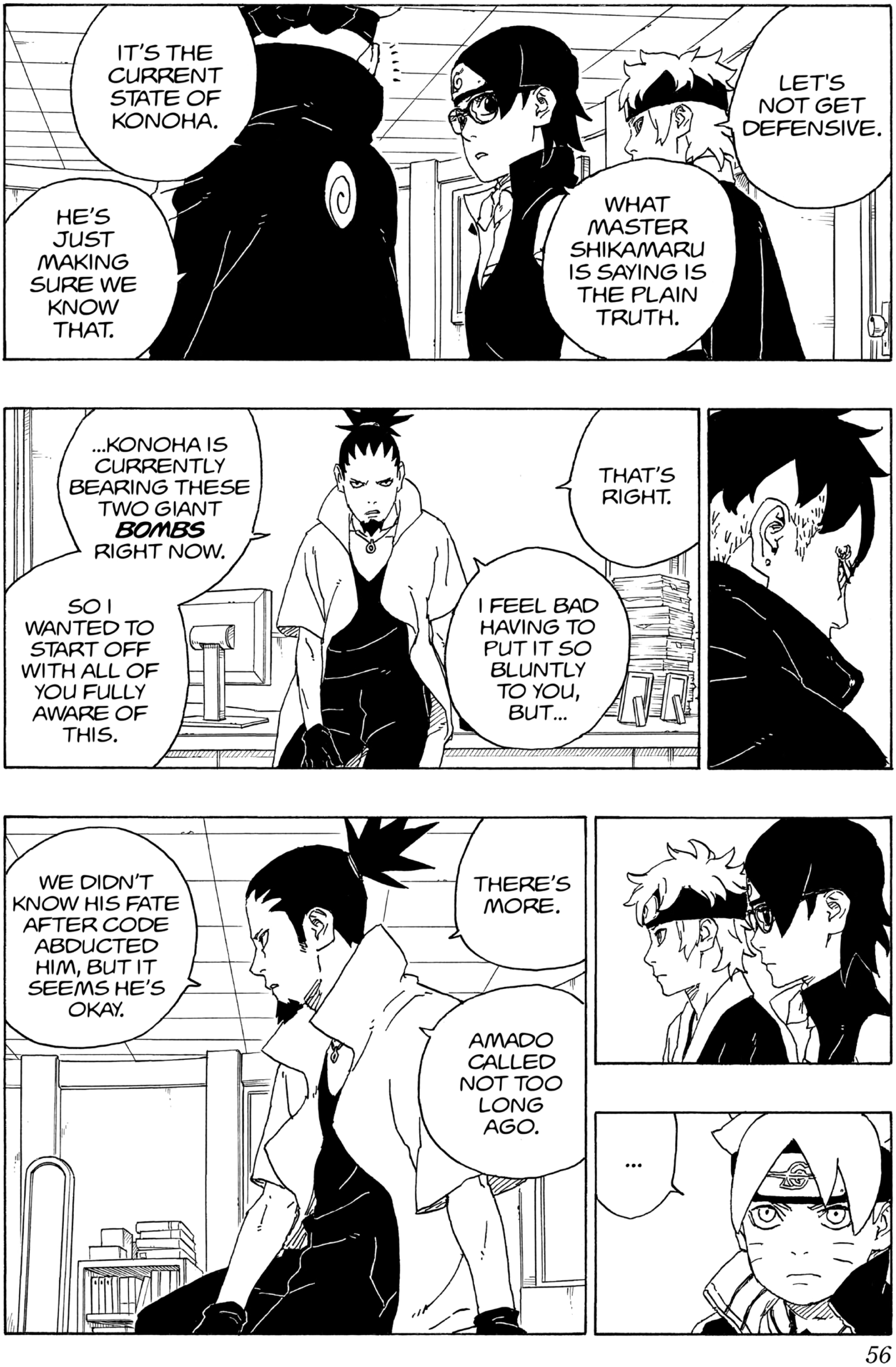

KAWAKI...
SPEAKING OF WHICH...
...THIS IS THE FIRST TIME I'VE SEEN HIM SINCE I CAME BACK TO LIFE...
YO.
I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU REVIVED YOURSELF.
TALK ABOUT A SHOCK.
YEAH.
SORRY FOR ALL THE FUSS.
BUT, AS YOU CAN SEE, I'M PERFECTLY FINE NOW.
...

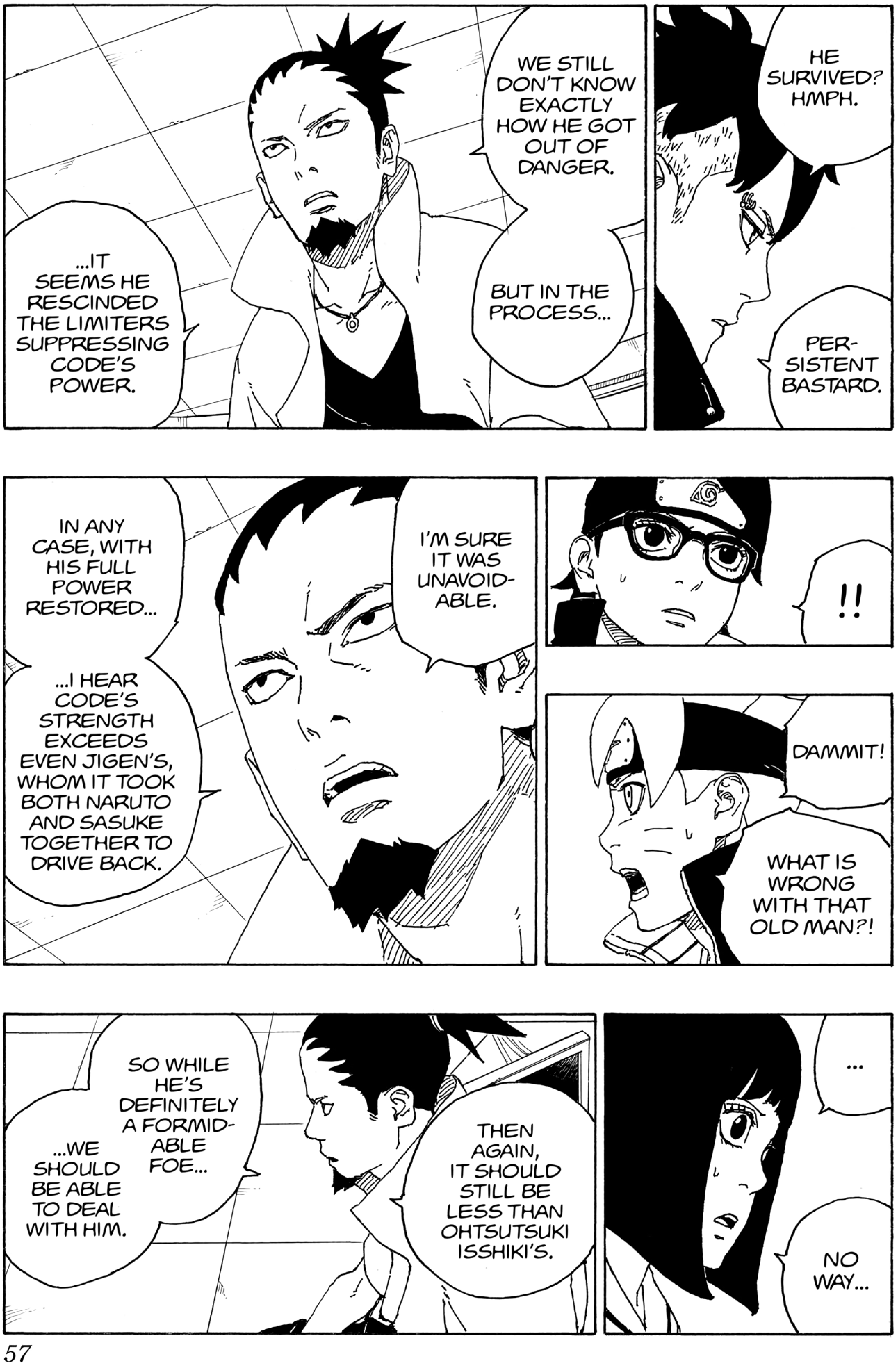

YOU'RE NOT GONNA...
...CONDEMN ME FOR KILLING BORUTO?
...
YOU DEFINITELY LOOK WELL, BORUTO!
I'M SO RELIEVED!
CLASS REP!
SORRY TO HAVE WORRIED YOU!
LONG TIME NO SEE!

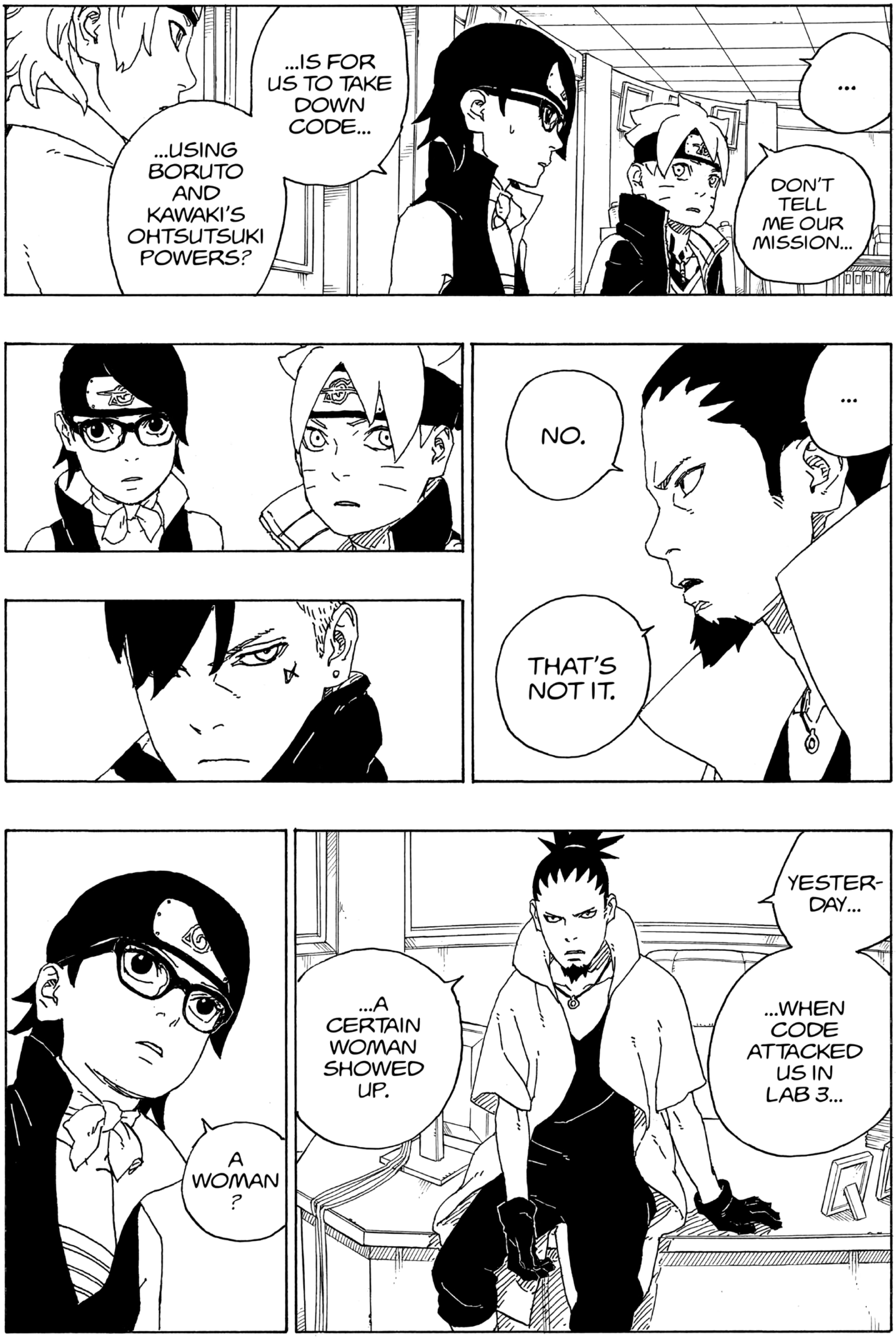

...
OKAY, GUYS!
ENOUGH FUN FOR THE DAY.
SORRY FOR THE SUDDEN SUMMONS, BUT...
...LET ME JUMP RIGHT TO THE HEART OF IT.

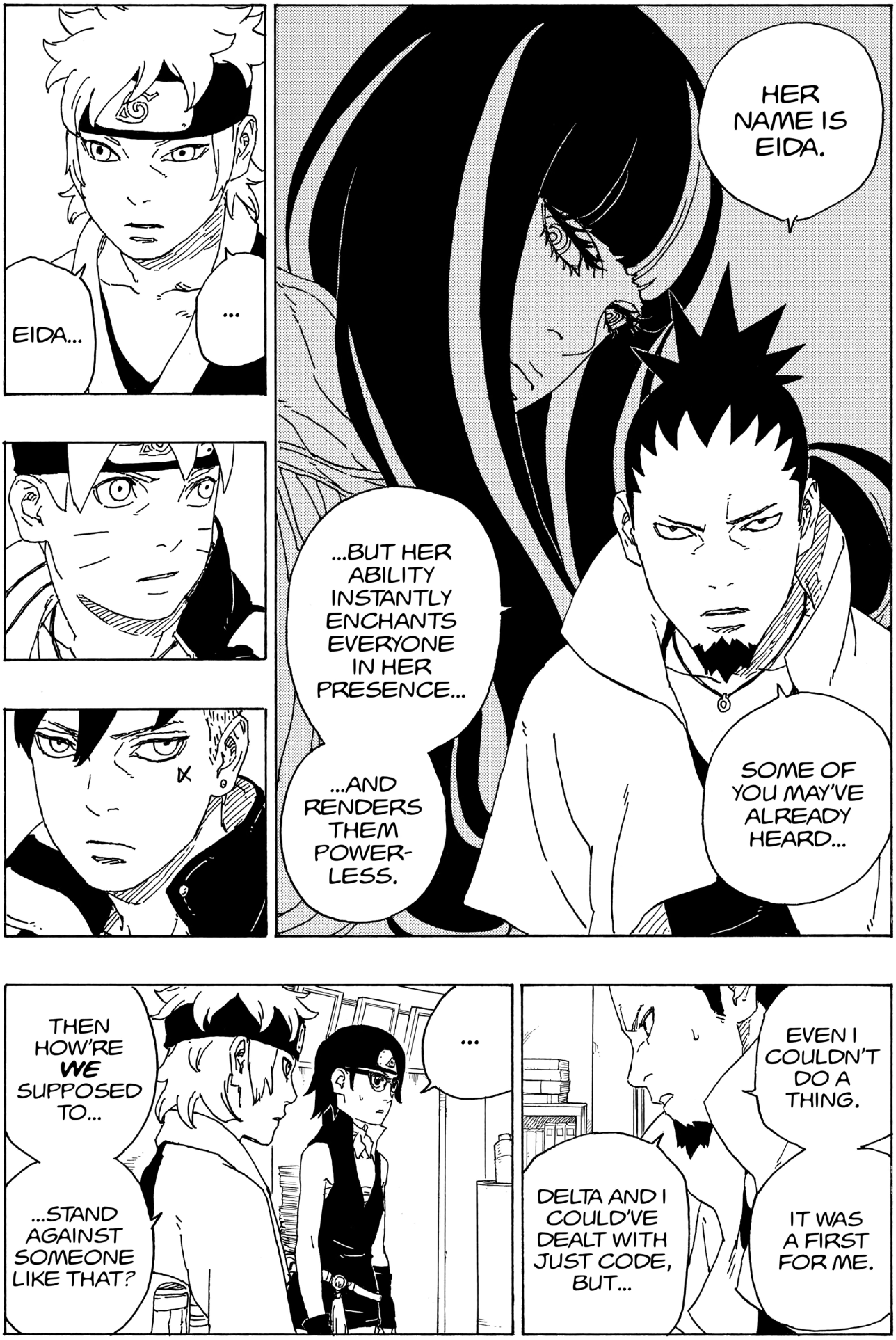

KONOHA VILLAGE IS DEALING WITH VARIOUS ISSUES RIGHT NOW.
WELL, THAT'S TRUE FOR ANY VILLAGE...
...ALL THE TIME.
BUT KONOHA'S BEEN SUBJECT TO ESPECIALLY PERILOUS SITUATIONS LATELY.
FIRST, BORUTO.
...
HUH?
FOR QUITE A WHILE NOW...
...WE'VE HAD NO IDEA WHEN MOMOSHIKI MIGHT TAKE OVER YOUR CONSCIOUSNESS AND RUN AMOK, YET...
...NOT ONLY HAVE WE NOT FOUND ANY CONCRETE SOLUTIONS...
...BUT YOUR PHYSICAL BODY HAS ALSO NOW BECOME COMPLETELY OHTSUTSUKI.
...
I'M...
...NOT LIKING THE SOUND OF THIS...
NEXT, YOU...
KAWAKI.

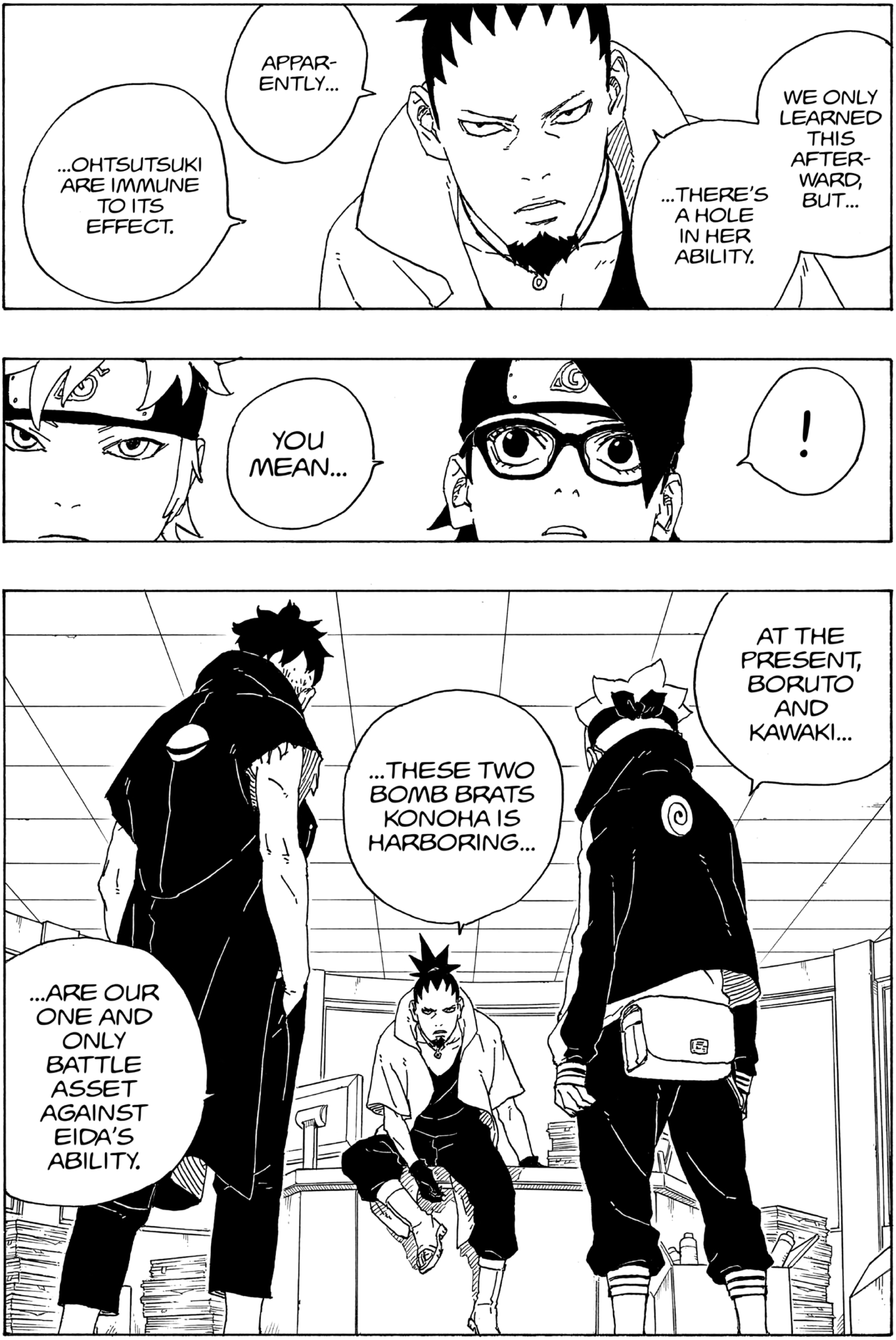

NOT THAT YOU WERE EVER DOCILE, BUT...
...NOW THAT YOU GOT KARMA BACK, PLUS ISSHIKI'S ABILITIES...
...YOU'RE AN ENTITY THAT WE CAN NO LONGER CONTROL AT ALL.
EVEN IF, UNLIKE BORUTO, THERE'S NO RISK OF ISSHIKI ACTUALLY POSSESSING YOU ANYMORE...
...
...FROM THE STANDPOINT THAT WE CAN'T KEEP THAT POWER IN CHECK...
...FRANKLY, AS THE ONES RESPONSIBLE FOR MAINTAINING THE PEACE AND ORDER OF THIS VILLAGE, WE HAVE TO TREAT YOU AS A THREAT.
HEY...
WHY DON'T YOU JUST COME OUT AND SAY IT?

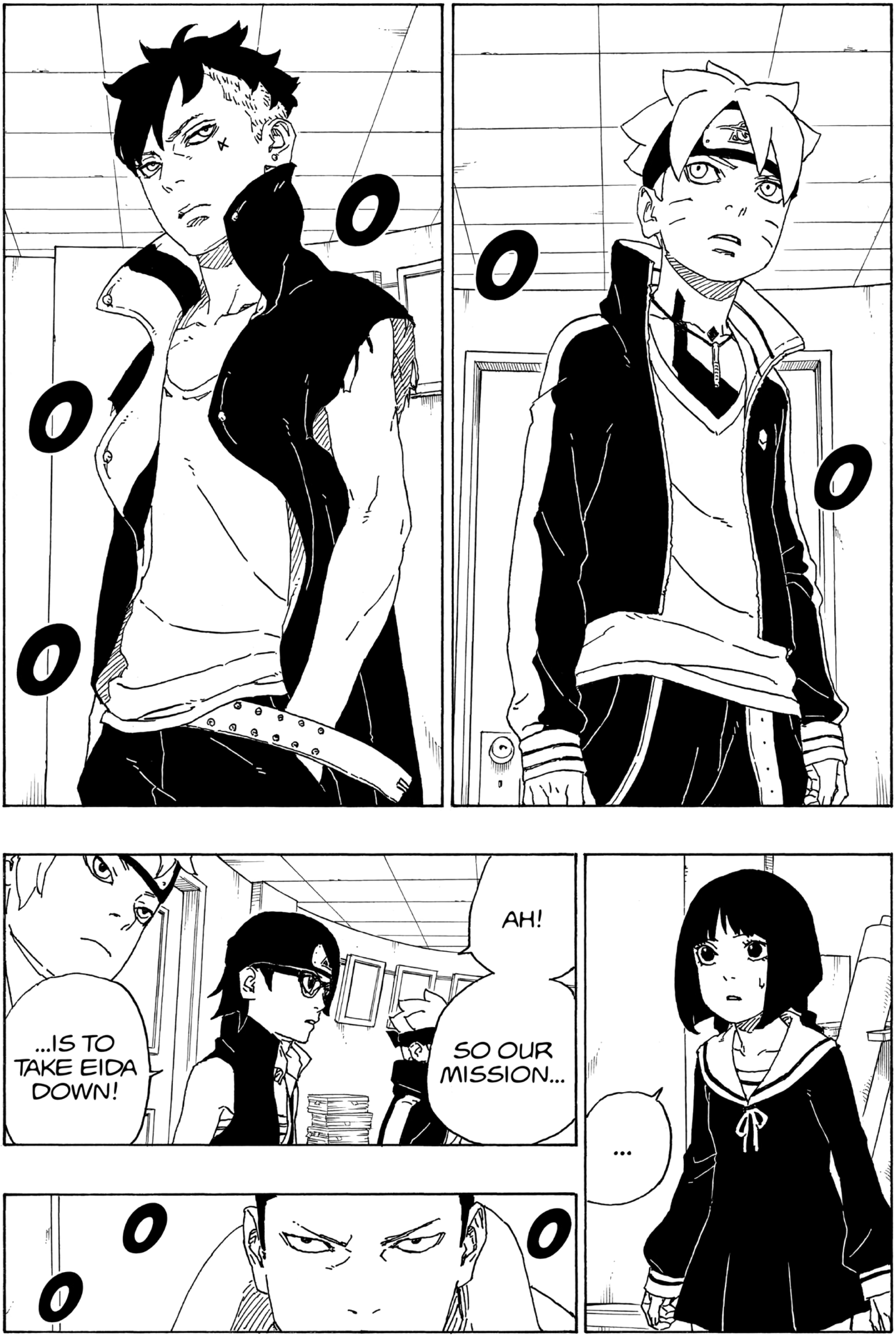

LET'S NOT GET DEFENSIVE.
WHAT MASTER SHIKAMARU IS SAYING IS THE PLAIN TRUTH.
IT'S THE CURRENT STATE OF KONOHA.
HE'S JUST MAKING SURE WE KNOW THAT.
THAT'S RIGHT.
I FEEL BAD HAVING TO PUT IT SO BLUNTLY TO YOU, BUT...
...KONOHA IS CURRENTLY BEARING THESE TWO GIANT **BOMBS** RIGHT NOW.
SO I WANTED TO START OFF WITH ALL OF YOU FULLY AWARE OF THIS.
THERE'S MORE.
AMADO CALLED NOT TOO LONG AGO.
WE DIDN'T KNOW HIS FATE AFTER CODE ABDUCTED HIM, BUT IT SEEMS HE'S OKAY.
...

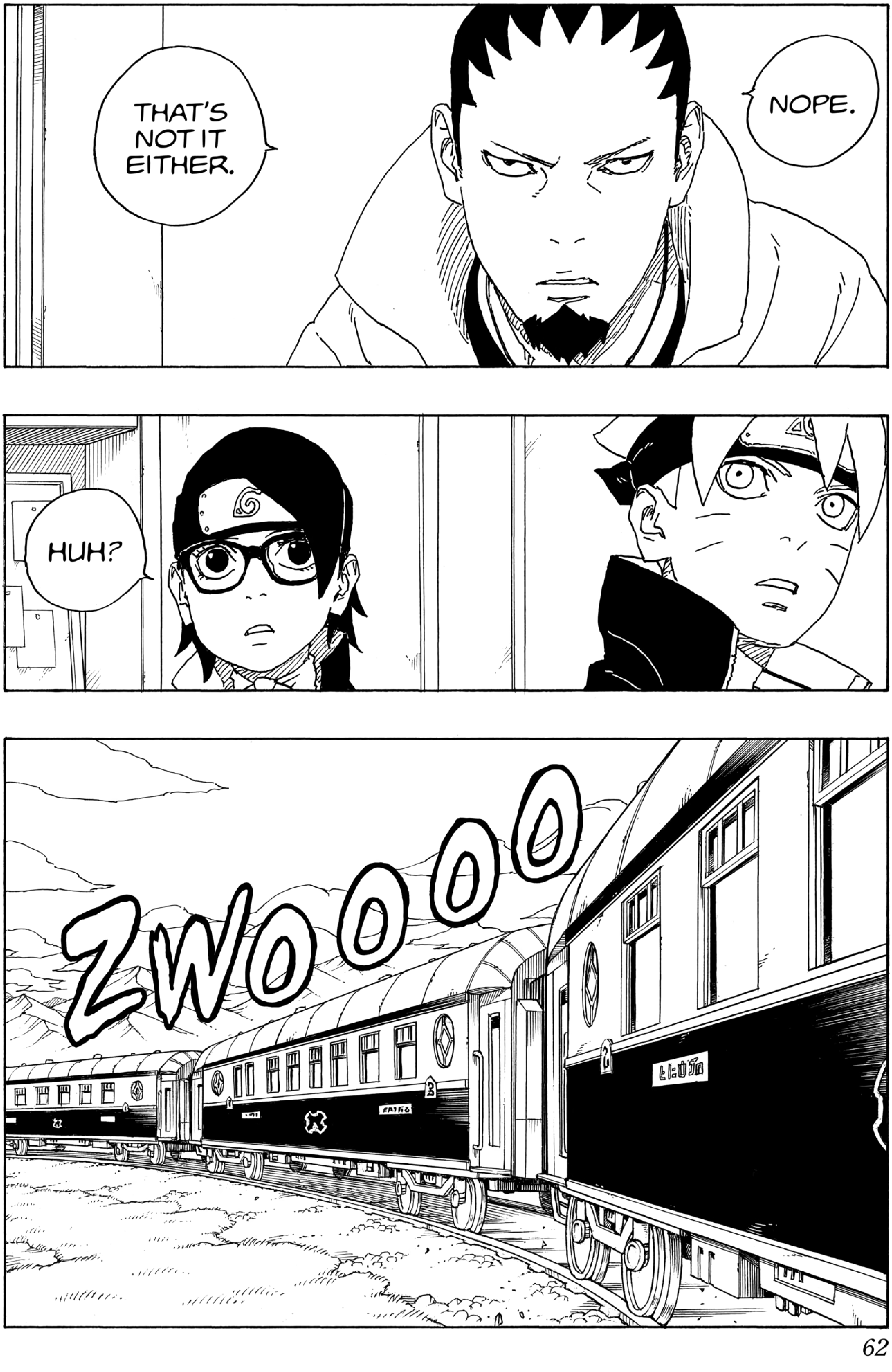

HE SURVIVED? HMPH.
PERSISTENT BASTARD.
WE STILL DON'T KNOW EXACTLY HOW HE GOT OUT OF DANGER.
BUT IN THE PROCESS...
...IT SEEMS HE RESCINDED THE LIMITERS SUPPRESSING CODE'S POWER.
!!
DAMMIT!
WHAT IS WRONG WITH THAT OLD MAN?!
I'M SURE IT WAS UNAVOIDABLE.
IN ANY CASE, WITH HIS FULL POWER RESTORED...
...I HEAR CODE'S STRENGTH EXCEEDS EVEN JIGEN'S, WHOM IT TOOK BOTH NARUTO AND SASUKE TOGETHER TO DRIVE BACK.
...
NO WAY...
THEN AGAIN, IT SHOULD STILL BE LESS THAN OHTSUTSUKI ISSHIKI'S.
SO WHILE HE'S DEFINITELY A FORMIDABLE FOE...
...WE SHOULD BE ABLE TO DEAL WITH HIM.


...
DON'T TELL ME OUR MISSION...
...IS FOR US TO TAKE DOWN CODE...
...USING BORUTO AND KAWAKI'S OHTSUTSUKI POWERS?
...
NO.
THAT'S NOT IT.
YESTERDAY...
...WHEN CODE ATTACKED US IN LAB 3...
...A CERTAIN WOMAN SHOWED UP.
A WOMAN?

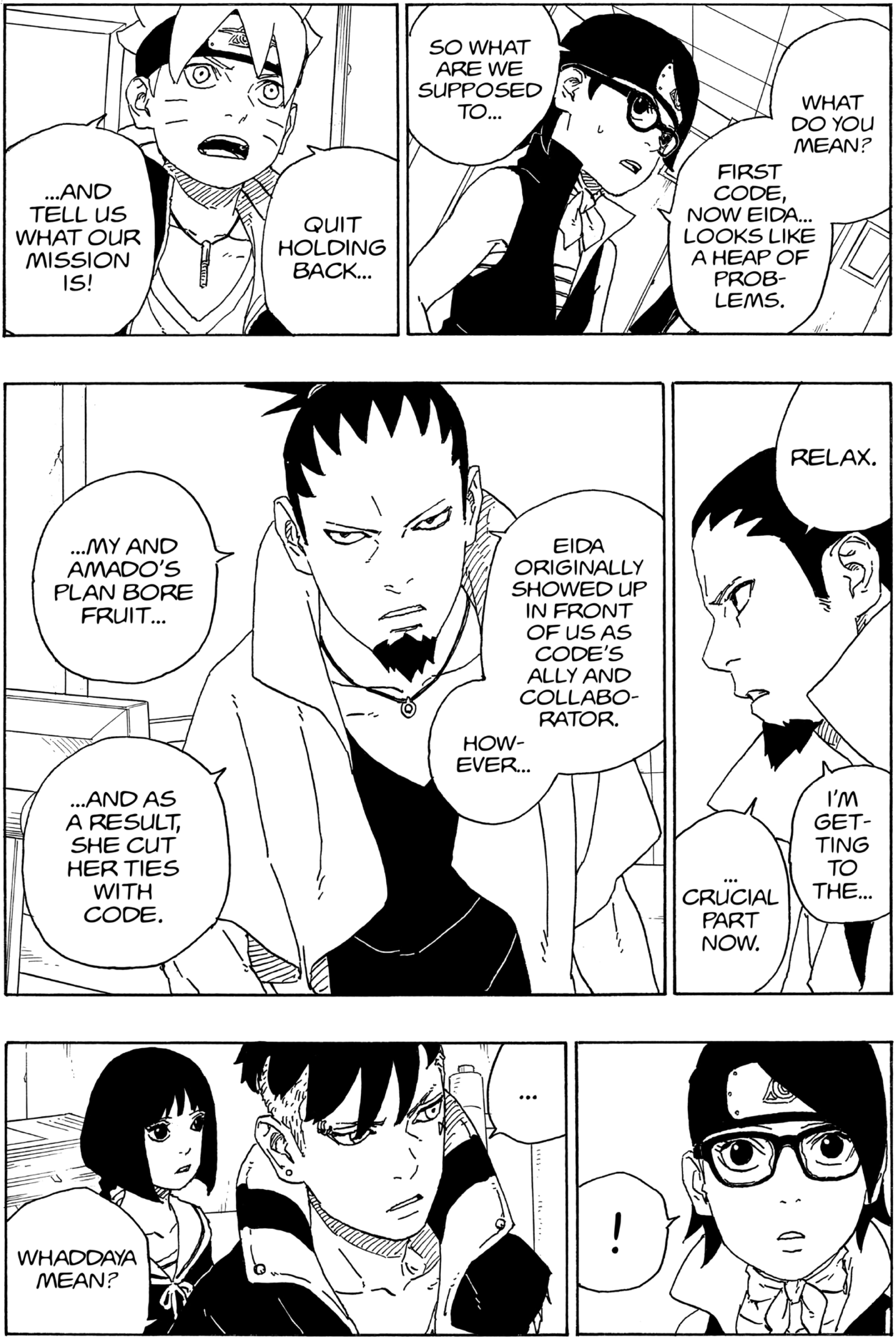

HER NAME IS EIDA.
SOME OF YOU MAY'VE ALREADY HEARD...
...BUT HER ABILITY INSTANTLY ENCHANTS EVERYONE IN HER PRESENCE...
...AND RENDERS THEM POWERLESS.
...
EIDA...
EVEN I COULDN'T DO A THING.
IT WAS A FIRST FOR ME.
DELTA AND I COULD'VE DEALT WITH JUST CODE, BUT...
...
THEN HOW'RE WE SUPPOSED TO...
...STAND AGAINST SOMEONE LIKE THAT?

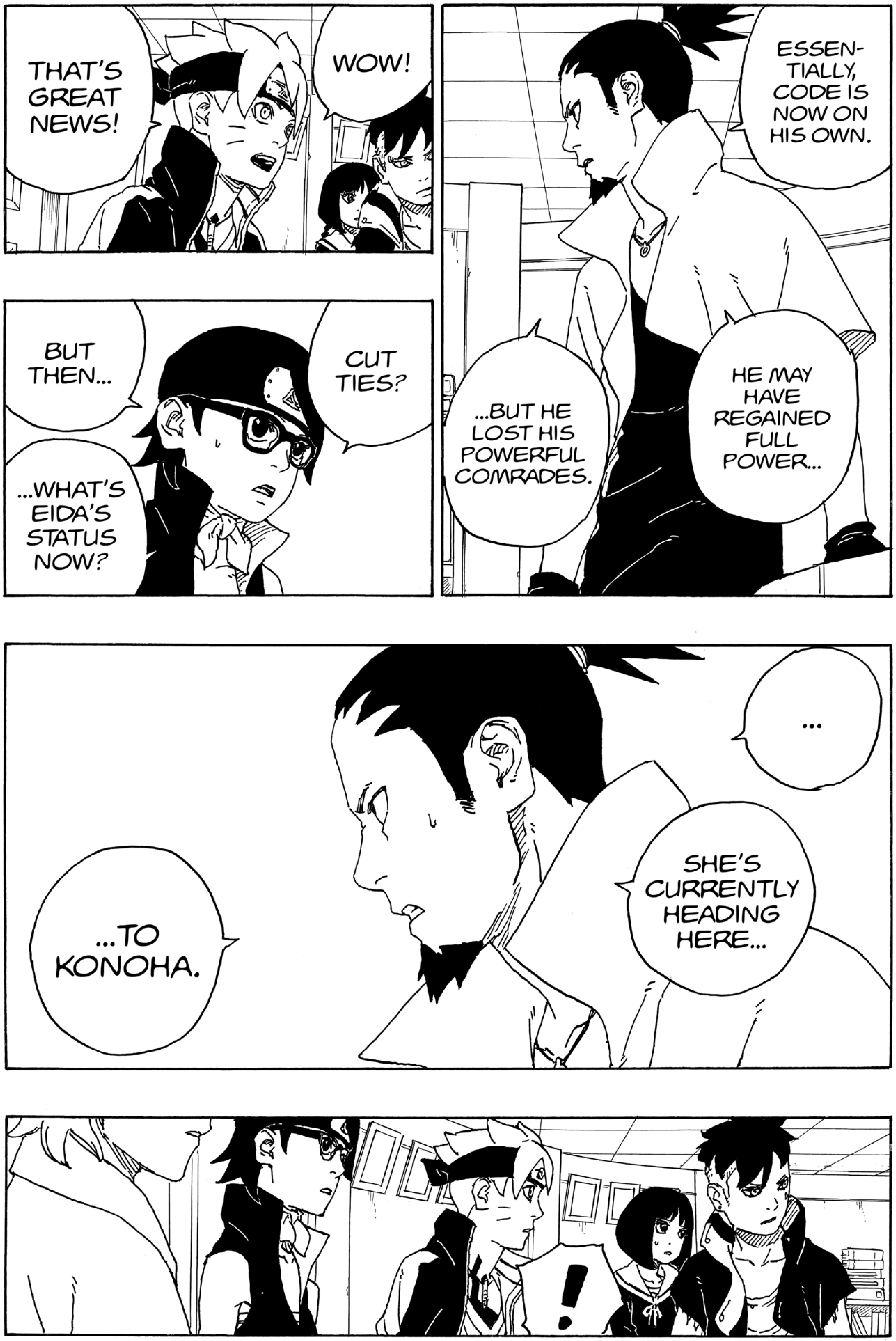

WE ONLY LEARNED THIS AFTERWARD, BUT...
...THERE'S A HOLE IN HER ABILITY.
APPARENTLY...
...OHTSUTSUKI ARE IMMUNE TO ITS EFFECT.
!
YOU MEAN...
AT THE PRESENT, BORUTO AND KAWAKI...
...THESE TWO BOMB BRATS KONOHA IS HARBORING...
...ARE OUR ONE AND ONLY BATTLE ASSET AGAINST EIDA'S ABILITY.

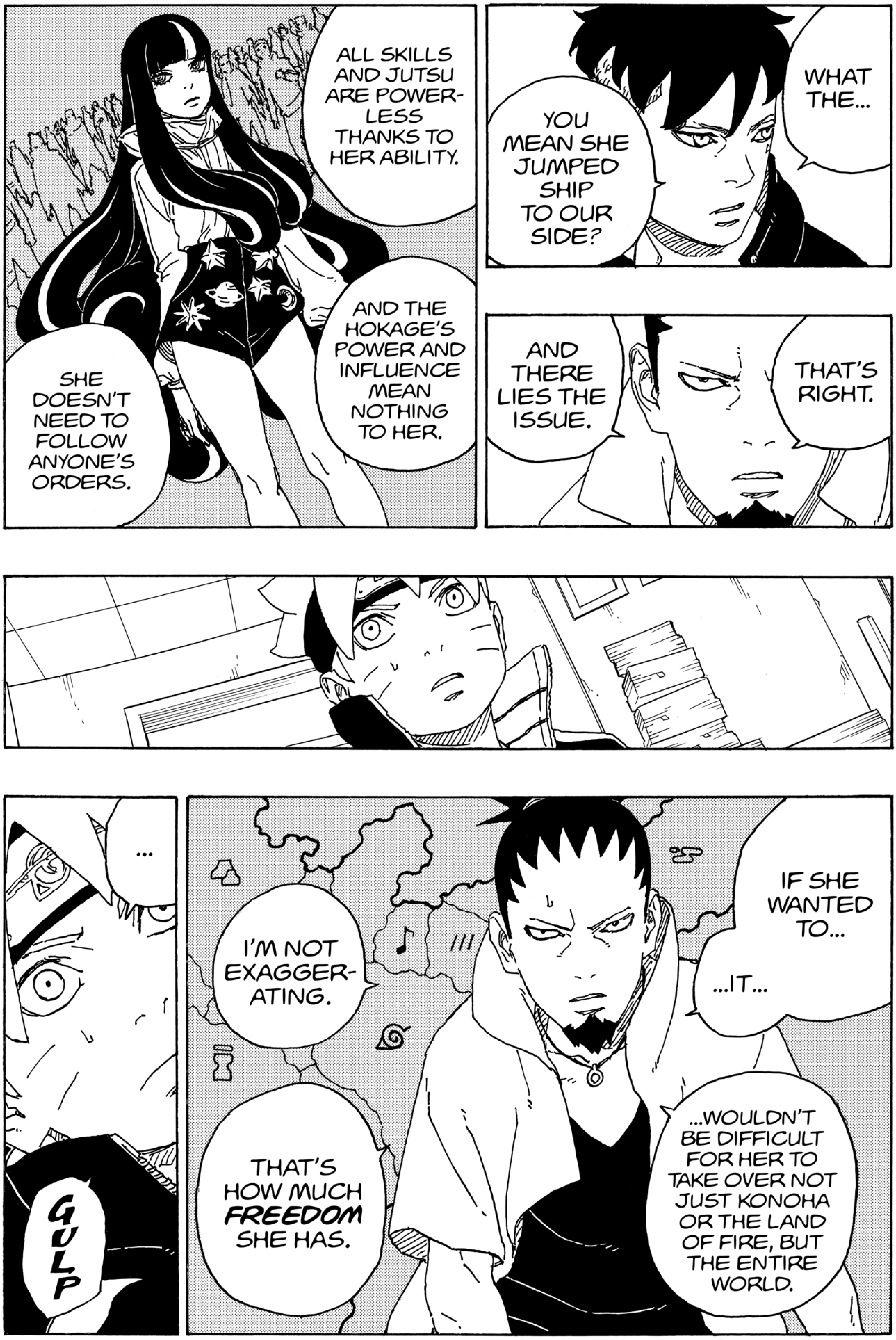

O O O O
O O O
AH!
SO OUR MISSION...
...IS TO TAKE EIDA DOWN!
...
O O O

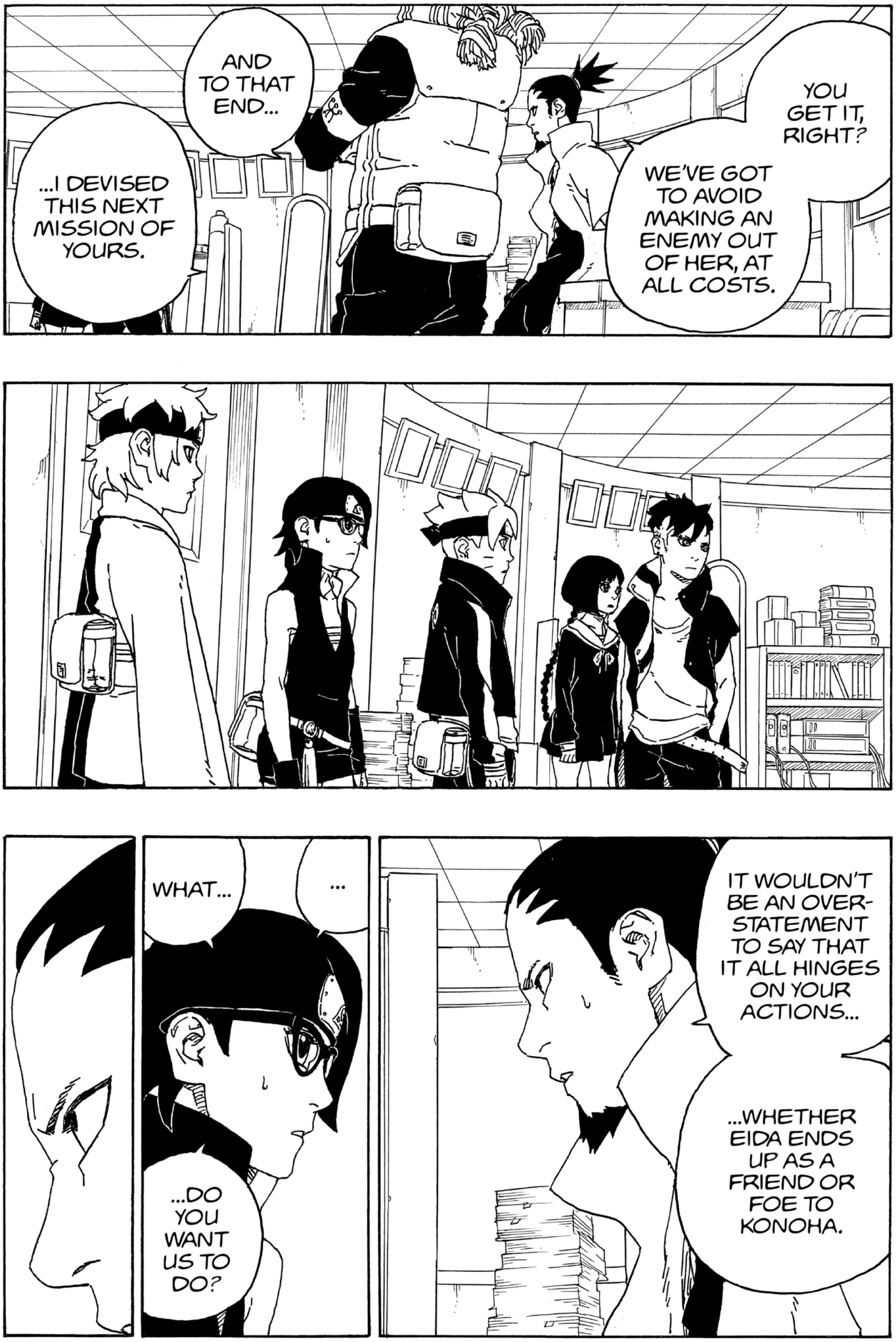

NOPE.
THAT'S NOT IT EITHER.
HUH?
ZWOOOO

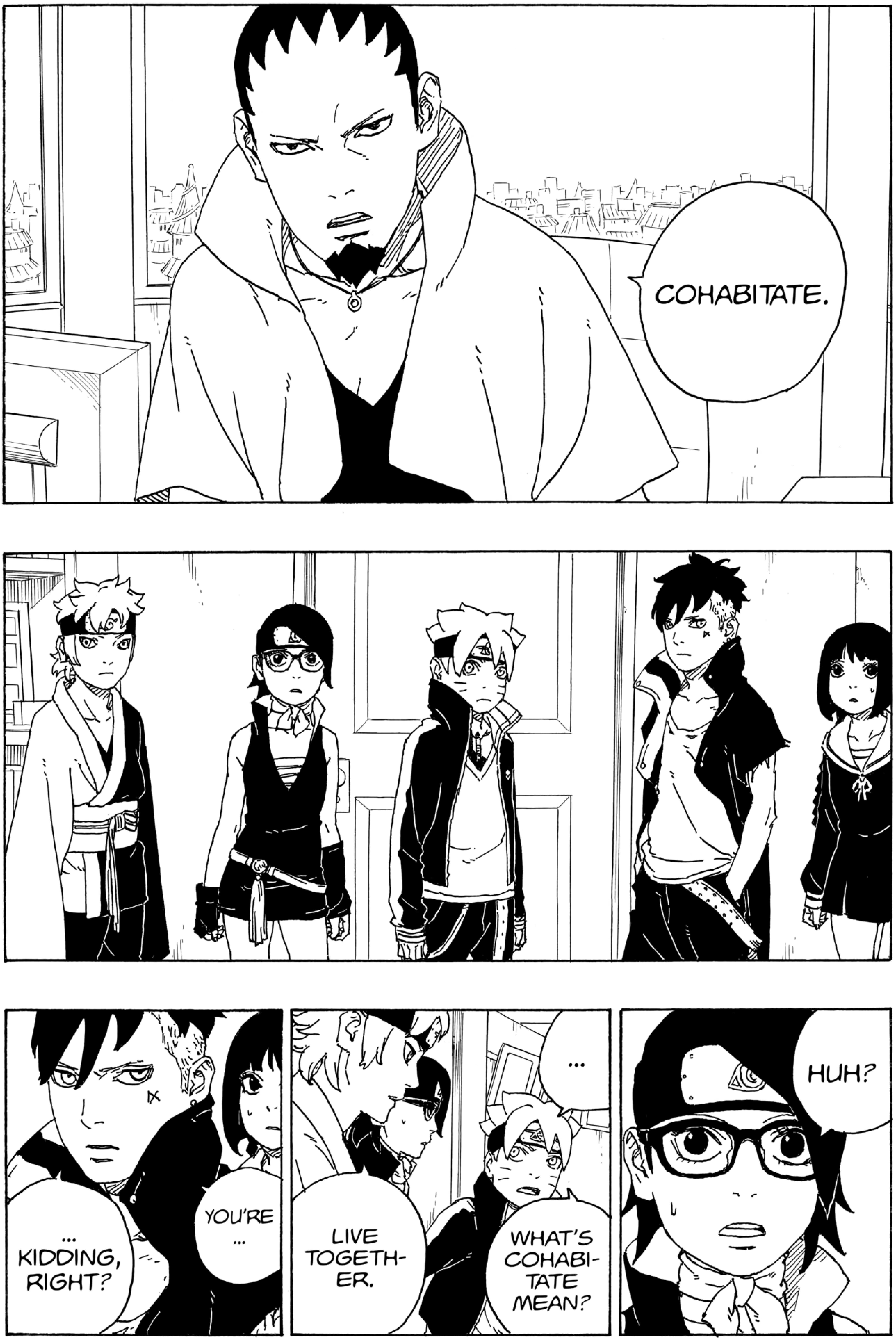
KA-KLAK
KA-KLAK
HMPH...
I WONDER ...
...WHAT SHIKA DEAR IS PLANNING.
KA-KLAK
KA-KLAK
...

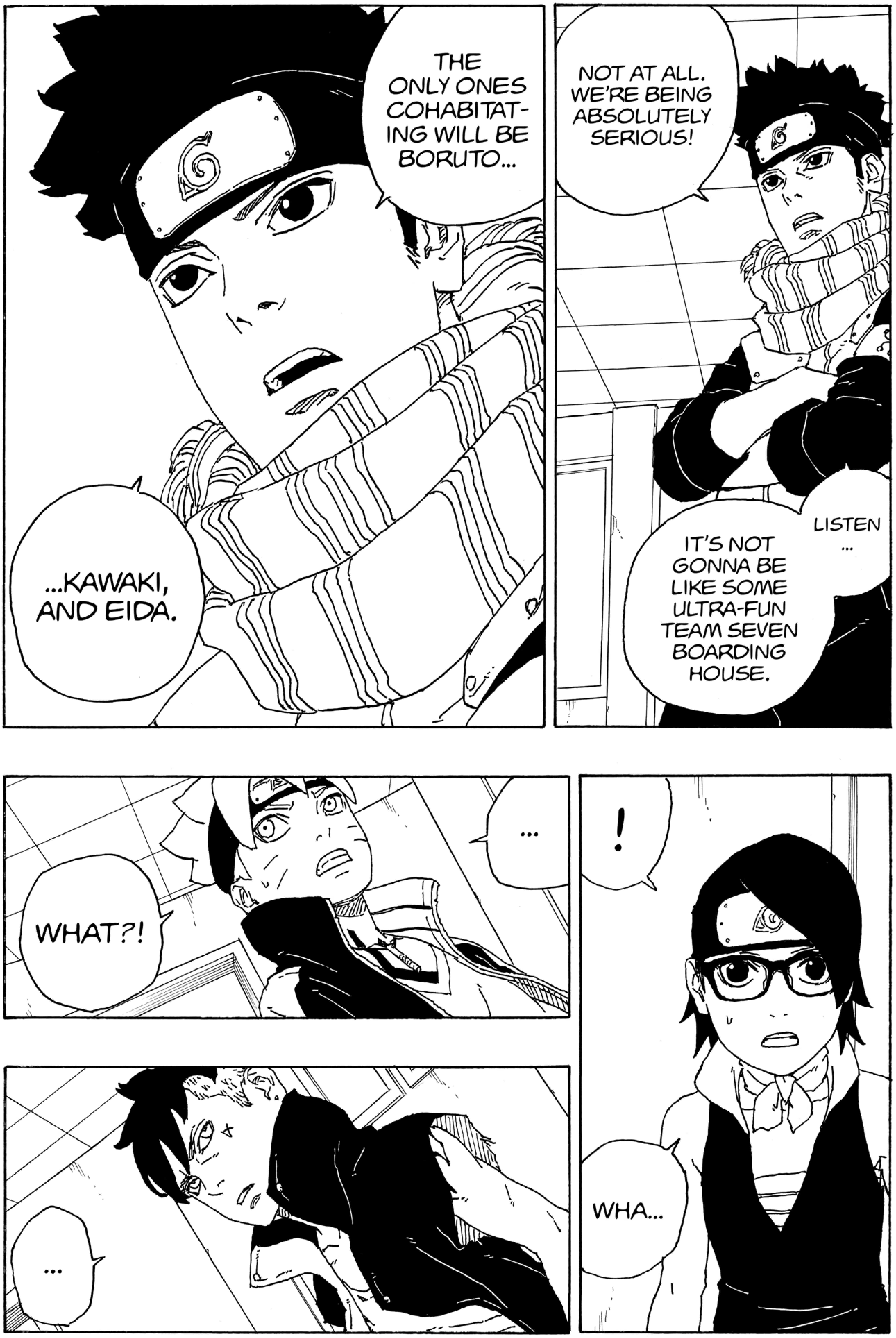

WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
FIRST CODE, NOW EIDA... LOOKS LIKE A HEAP OF PROBLEMS.
SO WHAT ARE WE SUPPOSED TO...
QUIT HOLDING BACK...
...AND TELL US WHAT OUR MISSION IS!
RELAX.
I'M GETTING TO THE...
...CRUCIAL PART NOW.
EIDA ORIGINALLY SHOWED UP IN FRONT OF US AS CODE'S ALLY AND COLLABORATOR.
HOWEVER...
...MY AND AMADO'S PLAN BORE FRUIT...
...AND AS A RESULT, SHE CUT HER TIES WITH CODE.
!
...
WHADDAYA MEAN?

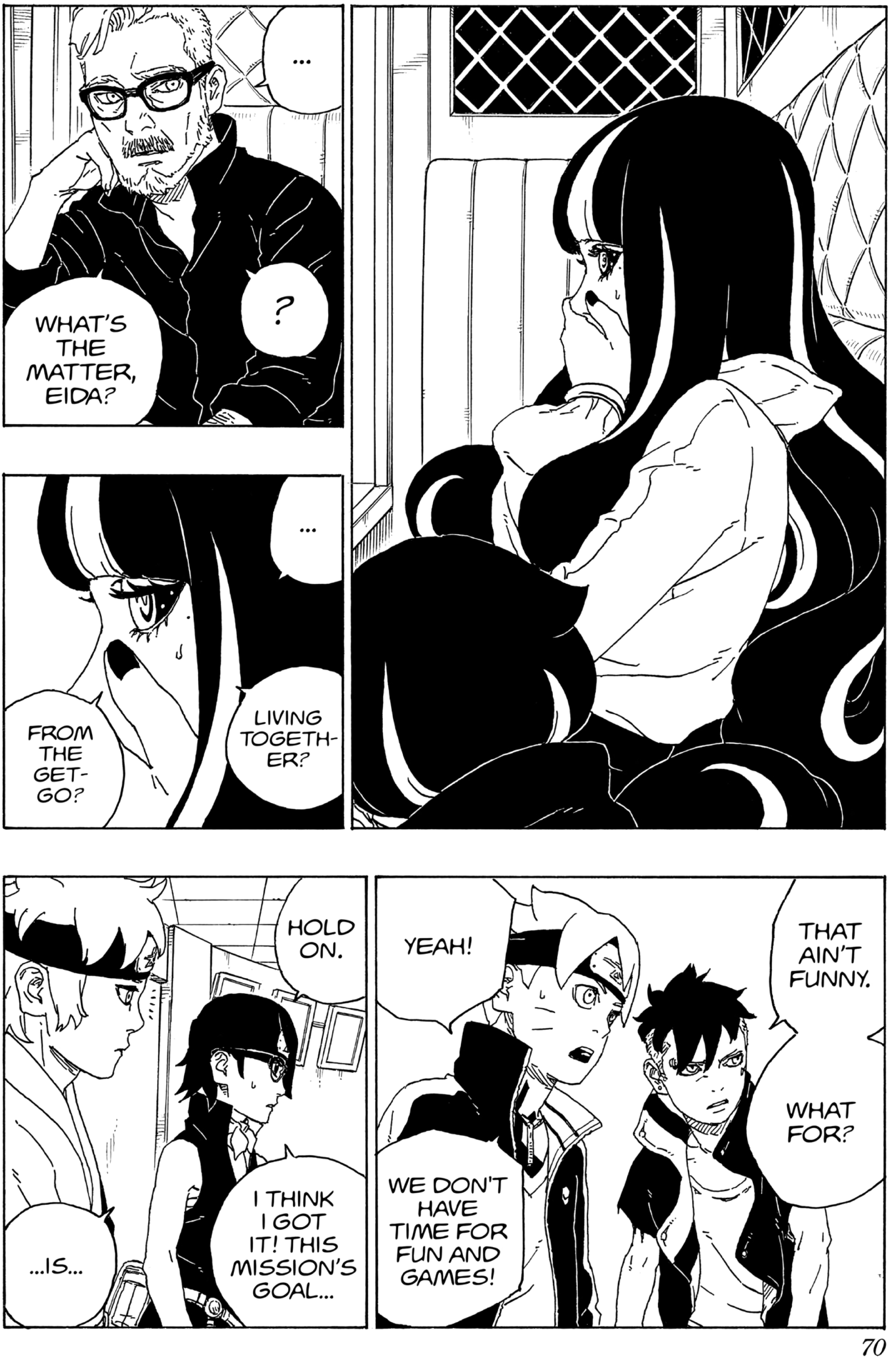

ESSENTIALLY, CODE IS NOW ON HIS OWN.
HE MAY HAVE REGAINED FULL POWER...
...BUT HE LOST HIS POWERFUL COMRADES.
WOW!
THAT'S GREAT NEWS!
CUT TIES?
BUT THEN...
...WHAT'S EIDA'S STATUS NOW?
...
SHE'S CURRENTLY HEADING HERE...
...TO KONOHA.
!

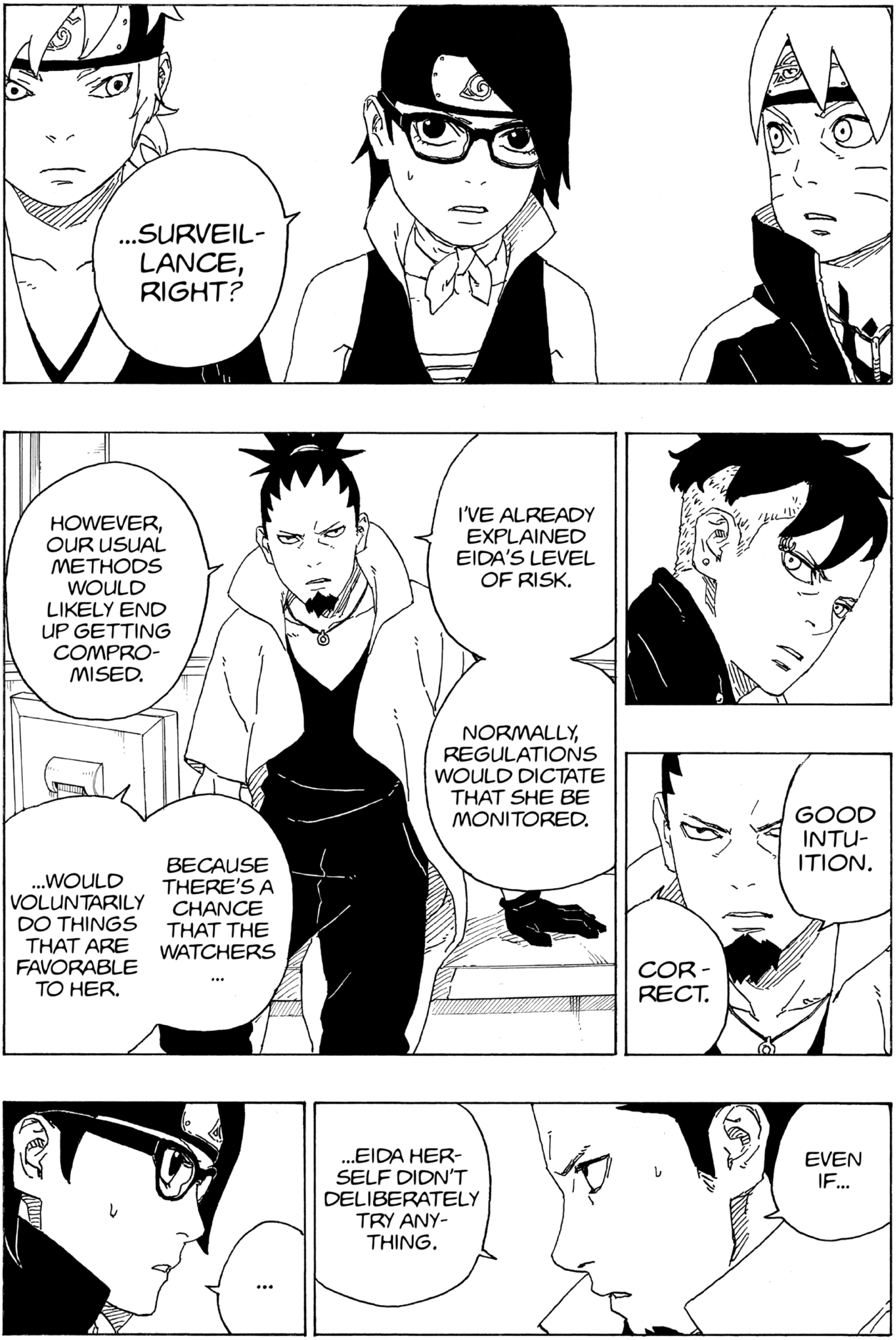

WHAT THE...
YOU MEAN SHE JUMPED SHIP TO OUR SIDE?
THAT'S RIGHT.
AND THERE LIES THE ISSUE.
ALL SKILLS AND JUTSU ARE POWERLESS THANKS TO HER ABILITY.
AND THE HOKAGE'S POWER AND INFLUENCE MEAN NOTHING TO HER.
SHE DOESN'T NEED TO FOLLOW ANYONE'S ORDERS.
IF SHE WANTED TO...
...IT...
...WOULDN'T BE DIFFICULT FOR HER TO TAKE OVER NOT JUST KONOHA OR THE LAND OF FIRE, BUT THE ENTIRE WORLD.
I'M NOT EXAGGERATING.
THAT'S HOW MUCH **FREEDOM** SHE HAS.
...
GULP

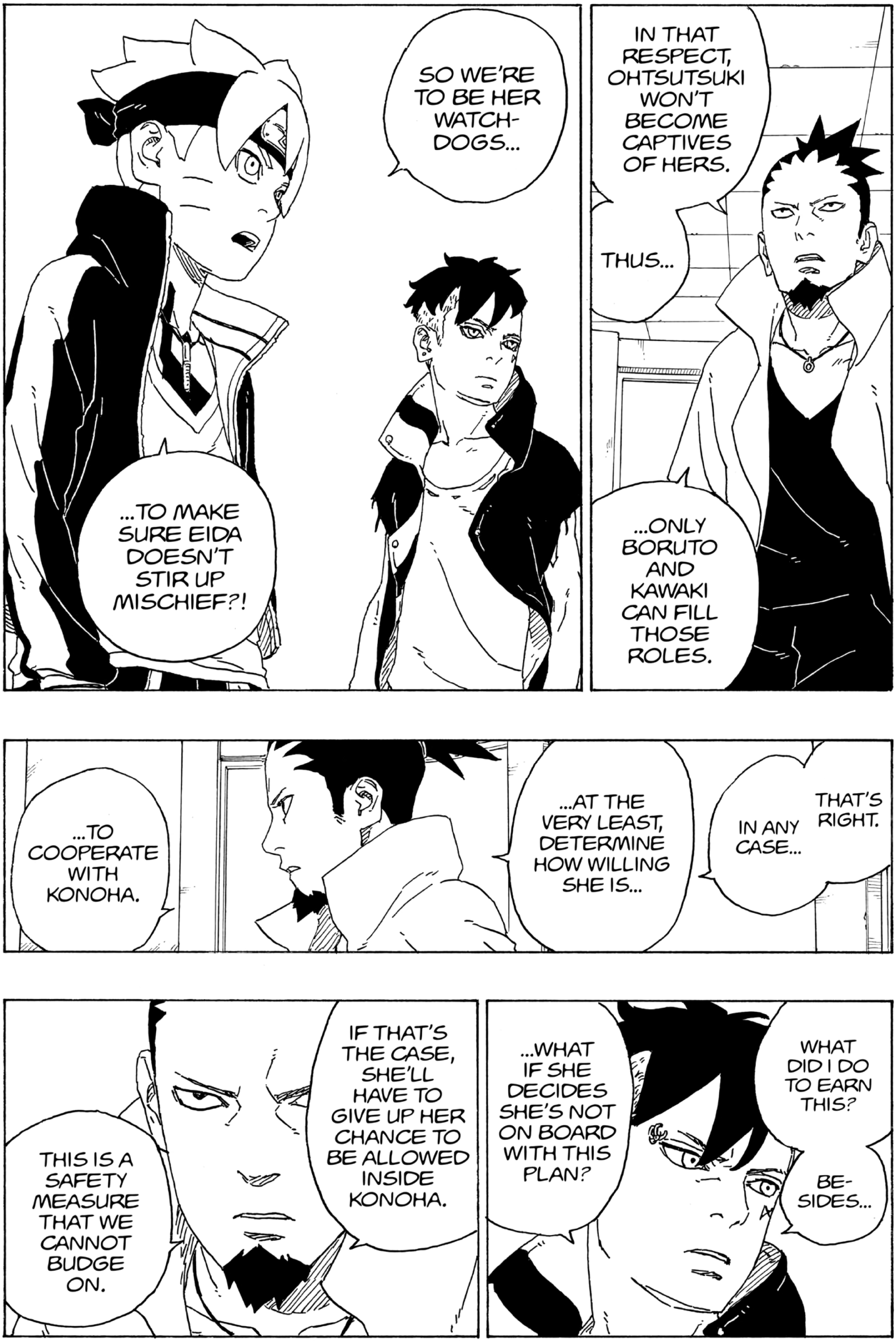

YOU GET IT, RIGHT?
WE'VE GOT TO AVOID MAKING AN ENEMY OUT OF HER, AT ALL COSTS.
AND TO THAT END...
...I DEVISED THIS NEXT MISSION OF YOURS.
IT WOULDN'T BE AN OVERSTATEMENT TO SAY THAT IT ALL HINGES ON YOUR ACTIONS...
...WHETHER EIDA ENDS UP AS A FRIEND OR FOE TO KONOHA.
...
WHAT...
...DO YOU WANT US TO DO?

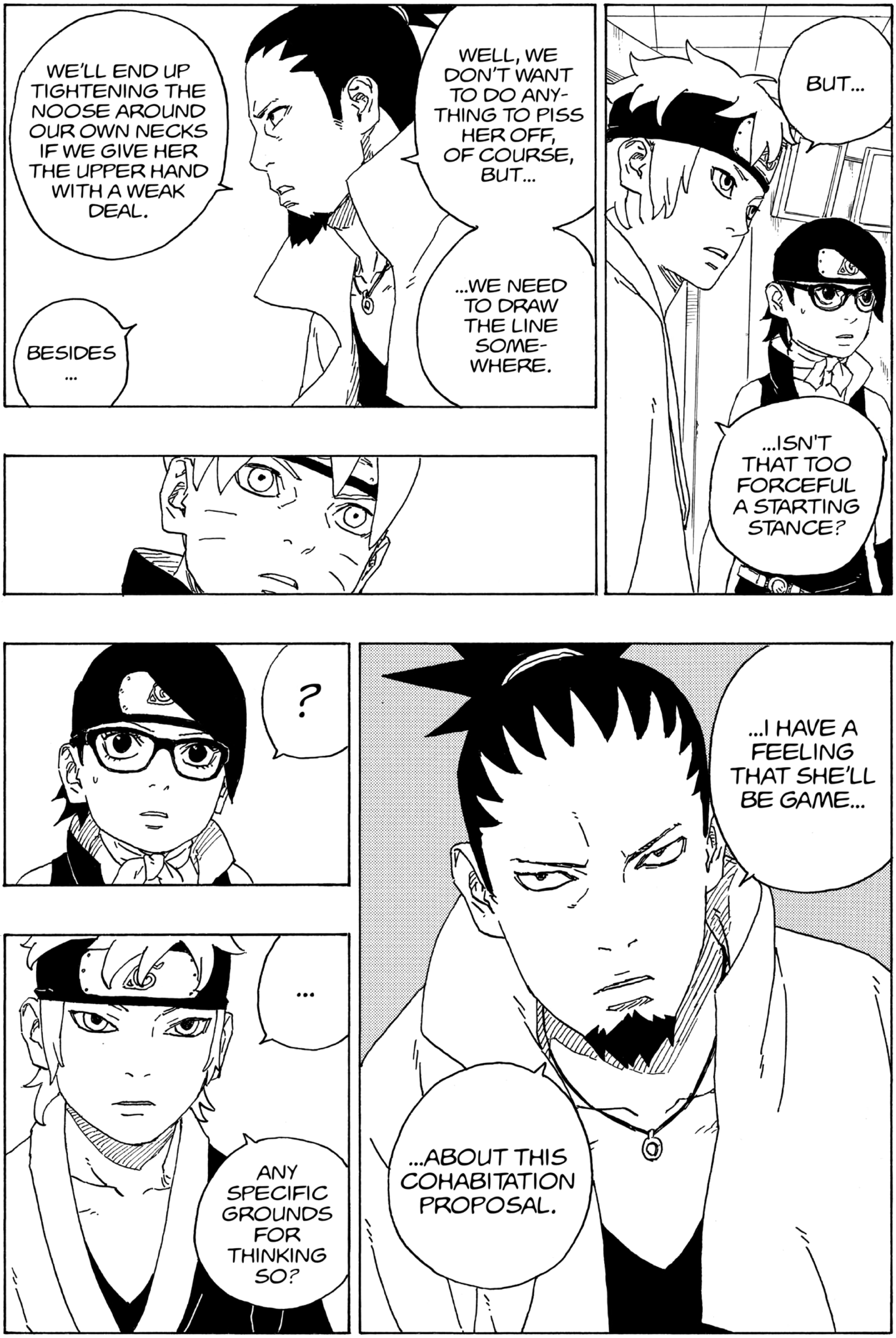

COHABITATE.
HUH?
...
WHAT'S COHABITATE MEAN?
LIVE TOGETHER.
YOU'RE ...
... KIDDING, RIGHT?

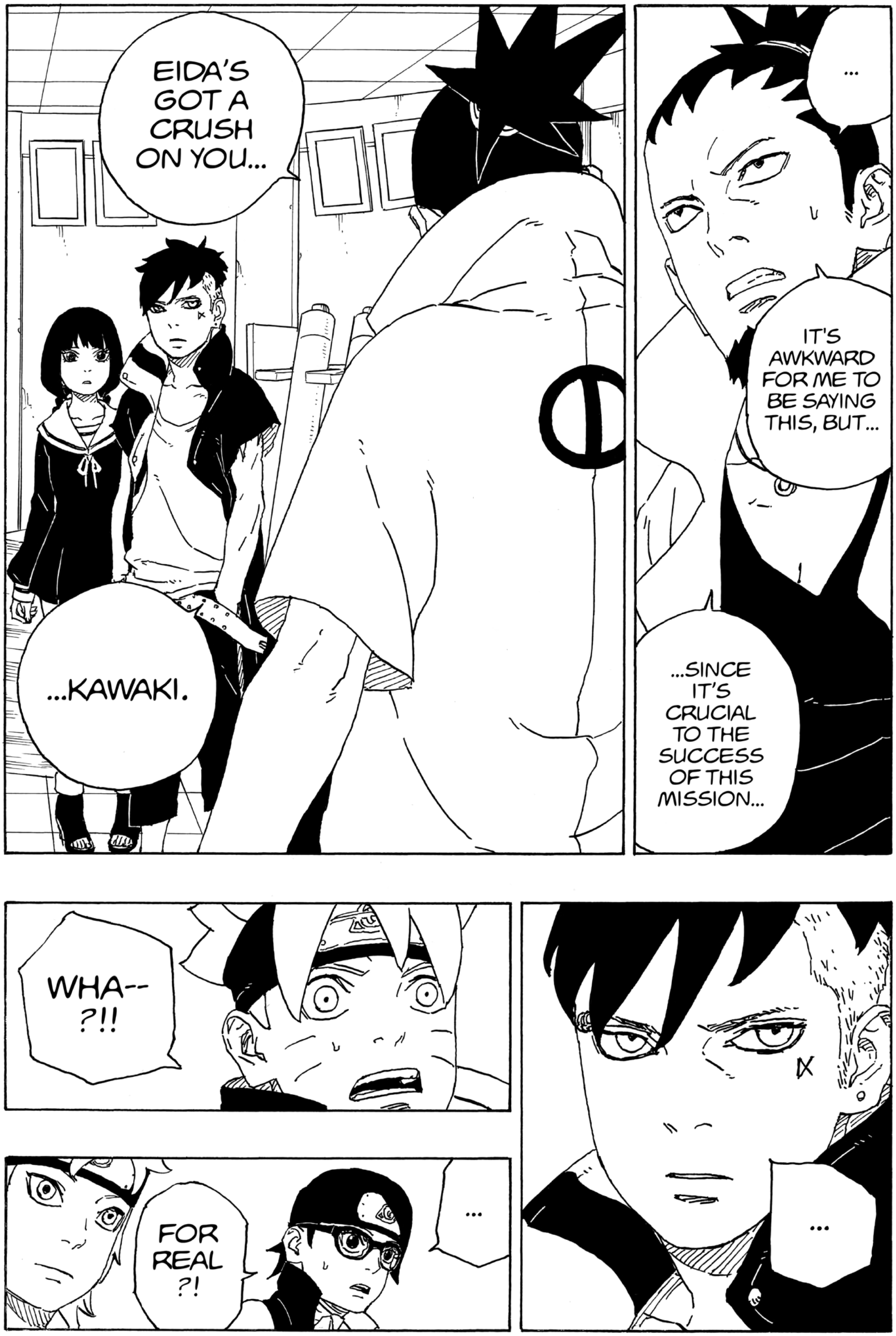

THE ONLY ONES COHABITATING WILL BE BORUTO...
...KAWAKI, AND EIDA.
NOT AT ALL. WE'RE BEING ABSOLUTELY SERIOUS!
LISTEN...
IT'S NOT GONNA BE LIKE SOME ULTRA-FUN TEAM SEVEN BOARDING HOUSE.
!
WHA...
...
WHAT?!
...

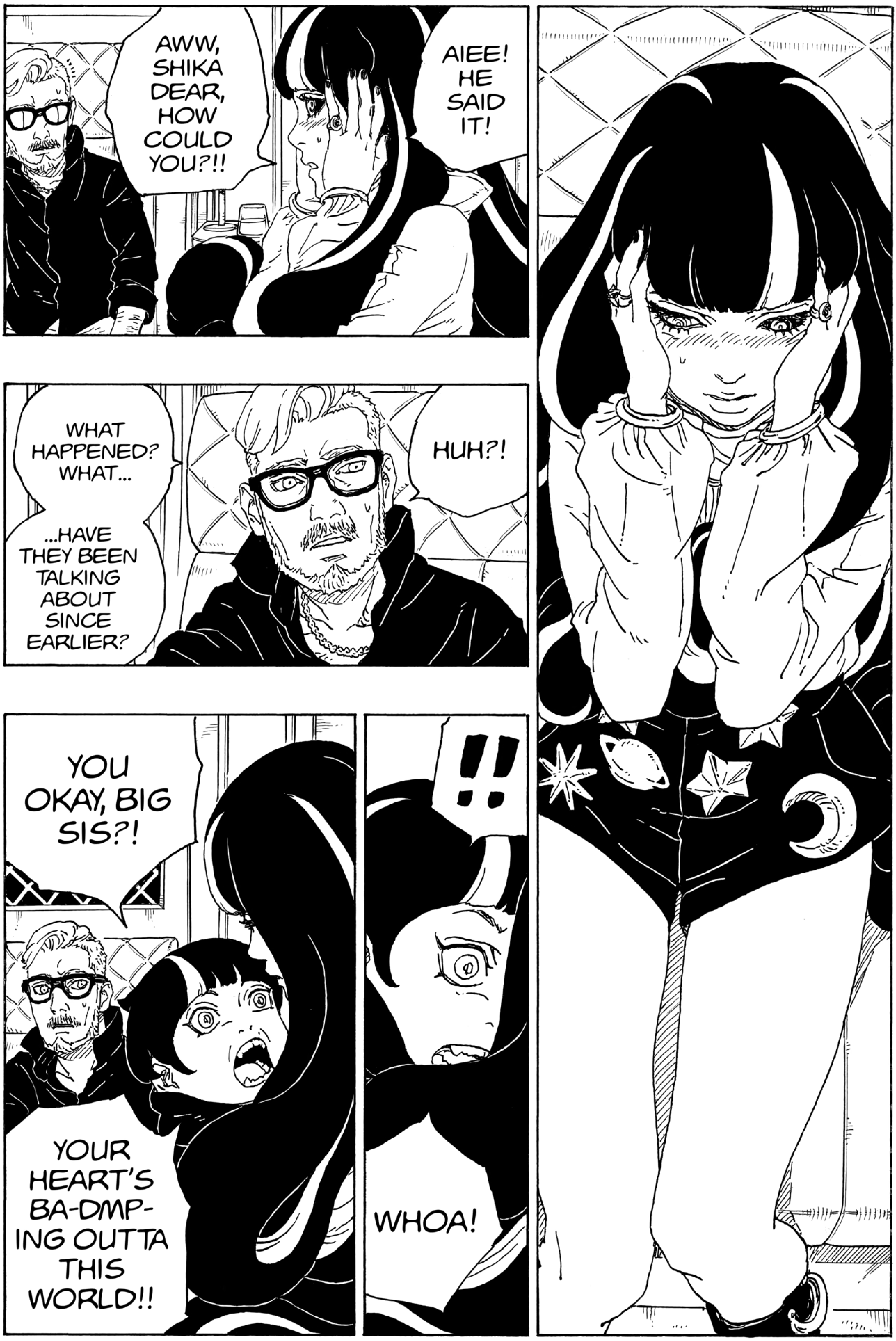

...
?
WHAT'S THE MATTER, EIDA?
...
LIVING TOGETHER?
FROM THE GET-GO?
THAT AIN'T FUNNY.
YEAH!
WHAT FOR?
WE DON'T HAVE TIME FOR FUN AND GAMES!
HOLD ON.
I THINK I GOT IT! THIS MISSION'S GOAL...
...IS...

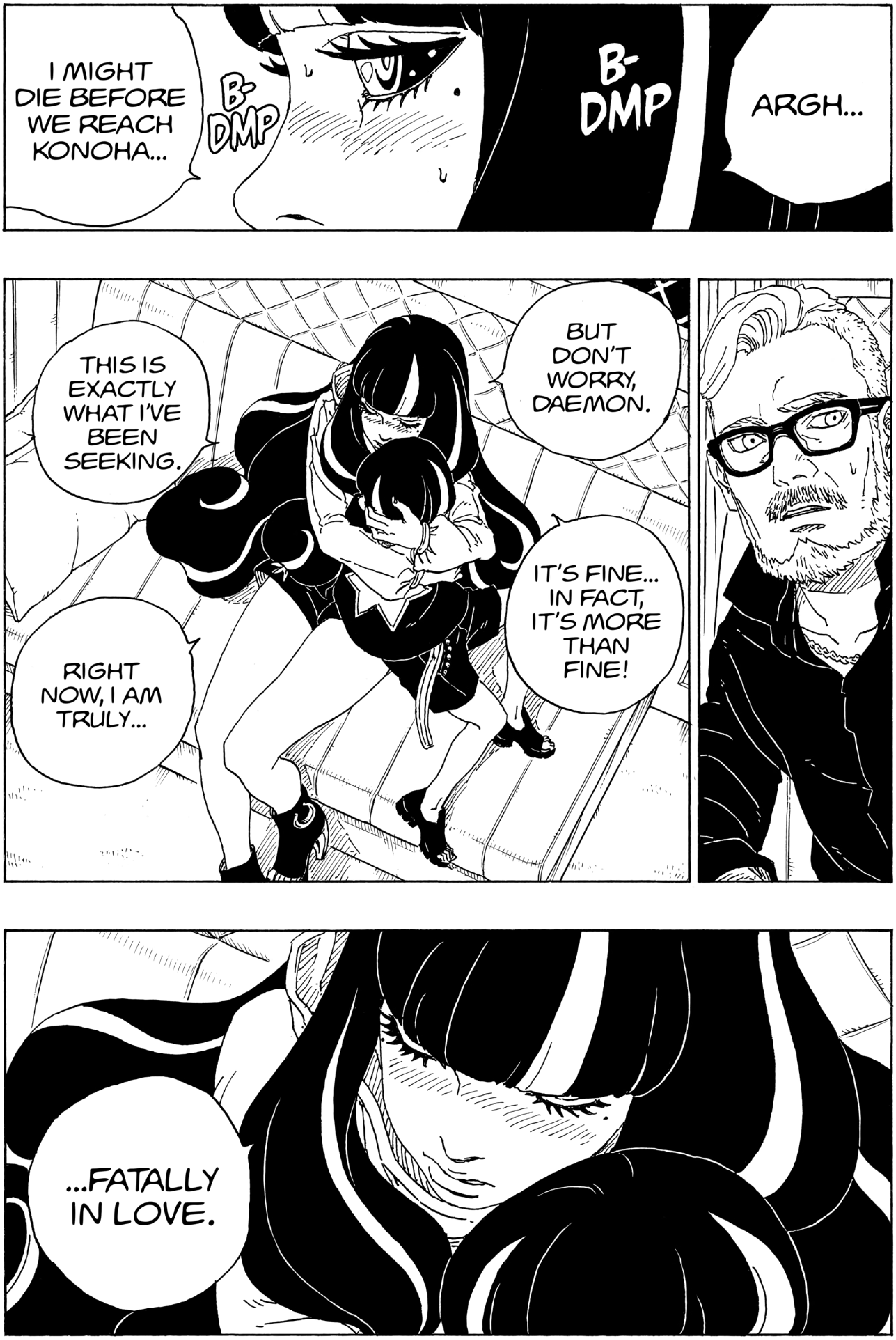

...SURVEILLANCE, RIGHT?
GOOD INTUITION.
CORRECT.
I'VE ALREADY EXPLAINED EIDA'S LEVEL OF RISK.
NORMALLY, REGULATIONS WOULD DICTATE THAT SHE BE MONITORED.
HOWEVER, OUR USUAL METHODS WOULD LIKELY END UP GETTING COMPROMISED.
BECAUSE THERE'S A CHANCE THAT THE WATCHERS ...
...WOULD VOLUNTARILY DO THINGS THAT ARE FAVORABLE TO HER.
EVEN IF...
...EIDA HERSELF DIDN'T DELIBERATELY TRY ANYTHING.
...

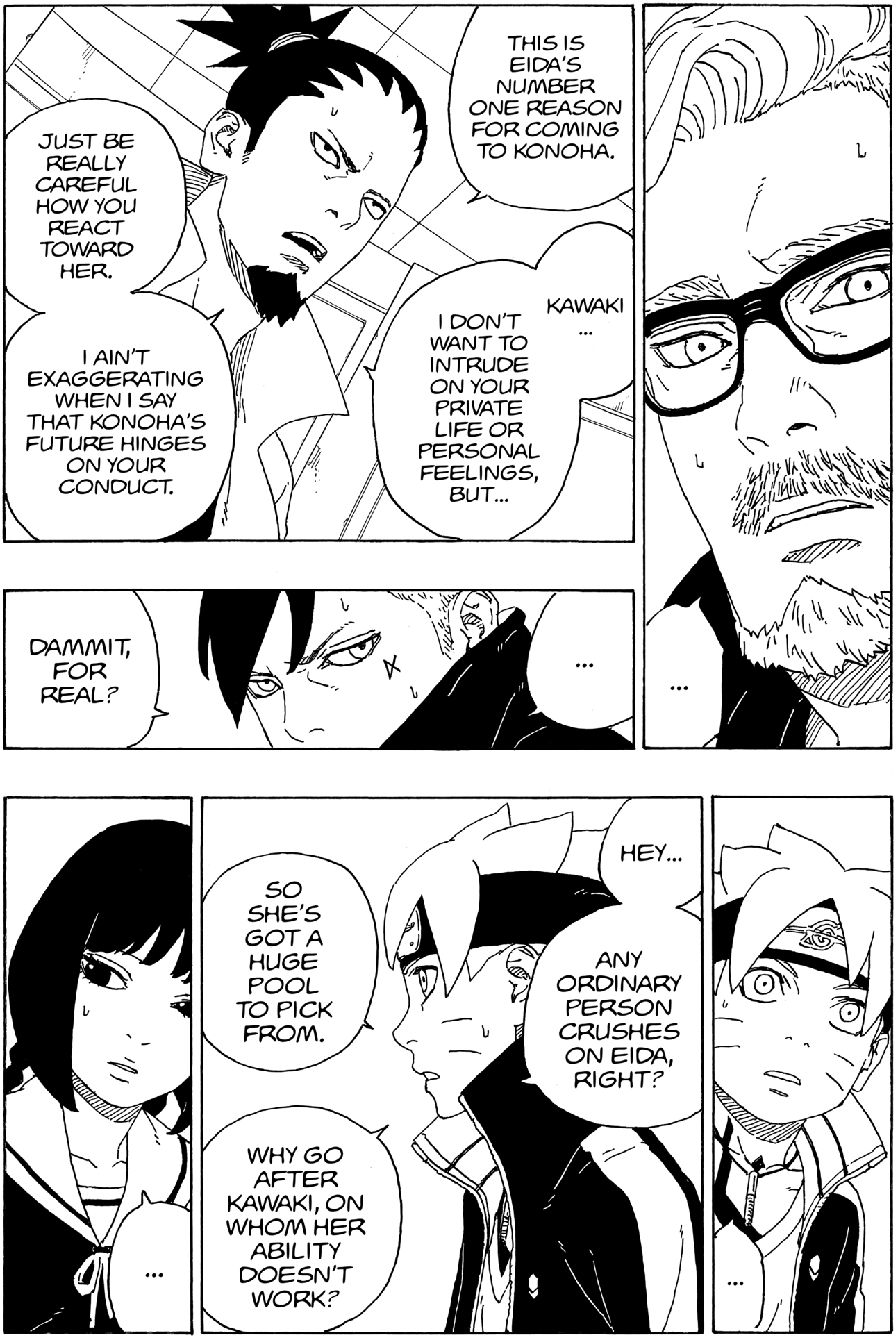

IN THAT RESPECT, OHTSUTSUKI WON'T BECOME CAPTIVES OF HERS.
THUS...
...ONLY BORUTO AND KAWAKI CAN FILL THOSE ROLES.
SO WE'RE TO BE HER WATCHDOGS...
...TO MAKE SURE EIDA DOESN'T STIR UP MISCHIEF?!
THAT'S RIGHT.
IN ANY CASE...
...AT THE VERY LEAST, DETERMINE HOW WILLING SHE IS...
...TO COOPERATE WITH KONOHA.
WHAT DID I DO TO EARN THIS?
BESIDES...
...WHAT IF SHE DECIDES SHE'S NOT ON BOARD WITH THIS PLAN?
IF THAT'S THE CASE, SHE'LL HAVE TO GIVE UP HER CHANCE TO BE ALLOWED INSIDE KONOHA.
THIS IS A SAFETY MEASURE THAT WE CANNOT BUDGE ON.

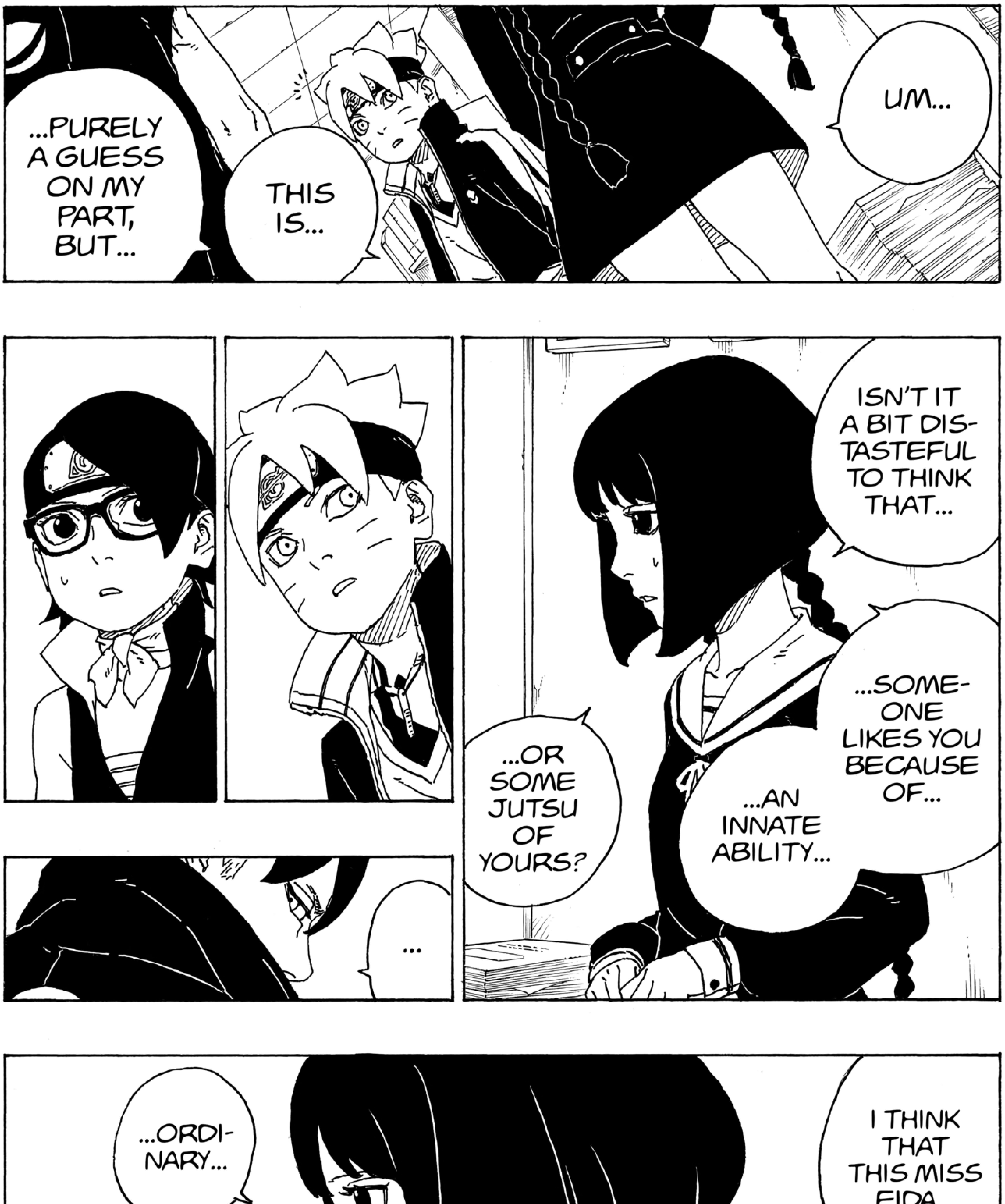

BUT...
...ISN'T THAT TOO FORCEFUL A STARTING STANCE?
WELL, WE DON'T WANT TO DO ANYTHING TO PISS HER OFF, OF COURSE, BUT...
...WE NEED TO DRAW THE LINE SOMEWHERE.
WE'LL END UP TIGHTENING THE NOOSE AROUND OUR OWN NECKS IF WE GIVE HER THE UPPER HAND WITH A WEAK DEAL.
BESIDES...
...I HAVE A FEELING THAT SHE'LL BE GAME...
...ABOUT THIS COHABITATION PROPOSAL.
?
...
ANY SPECIFIC GROUNDS FOR THINKING SO?

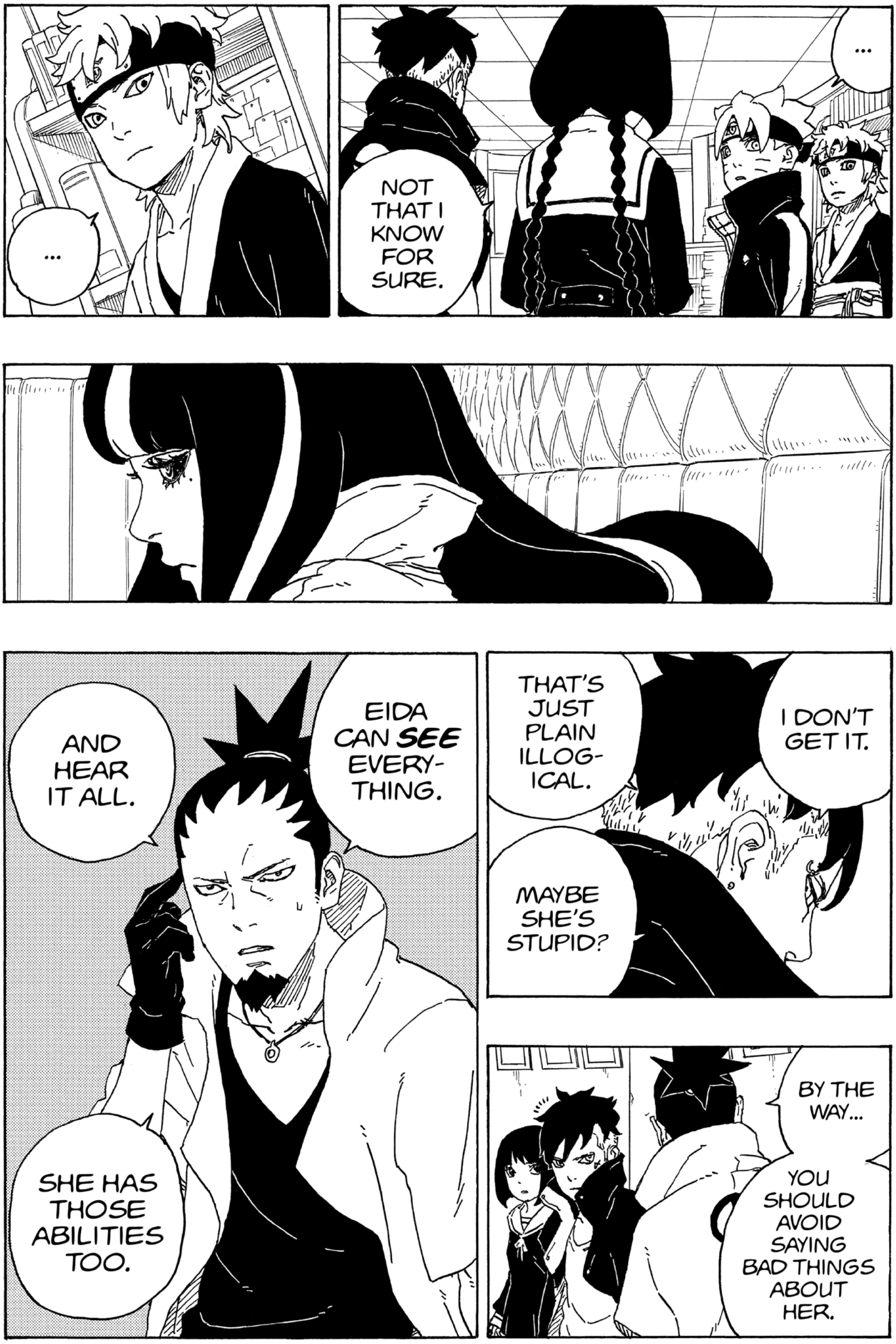

...
IT'S AWKWARD FOR ME TO BE SAYING THIS, BUT...
...SINCE IT'S CRUCIAL TO THE SUCCESS OF THIS MISSION...
EIDA'S GOT A CRUSH ON YOU...
...KAWAKI.
...
WHA-- ?!!
...
FOR REAL ?!

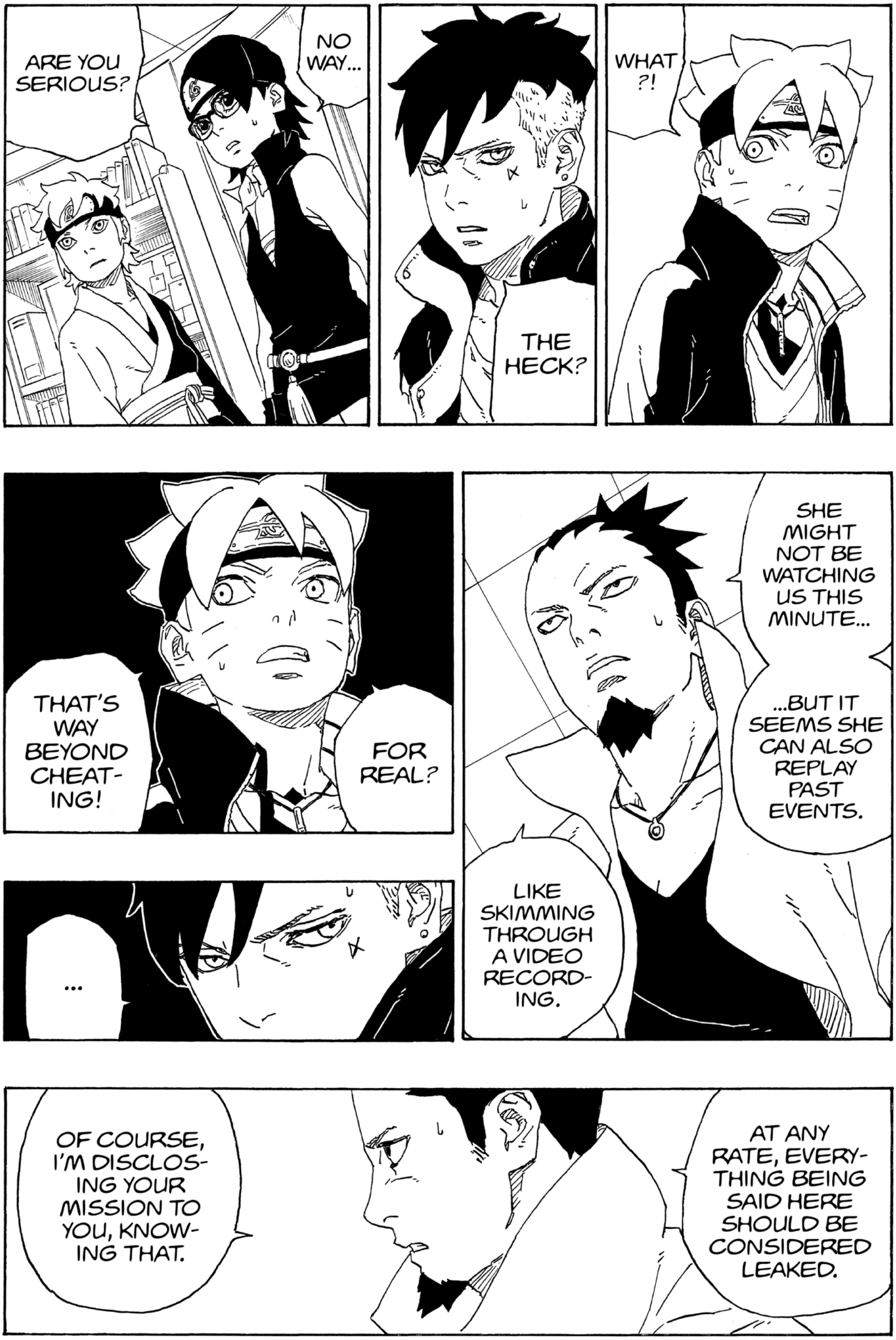

AIEE! HE SAID IT!
AWW, SHIKA DEAR, HOW COULD YOU?!!
HUH?!
WHAT HAPPENED? WHAT...
...HAVE THEY BEEN TALKING ABOUT SINCE EARLIER?
!!
WHOA!
YOU OKAY, BIG SIS?!
YOUR HEART'S BA-DMPING OUTTA THIS WORLD!!

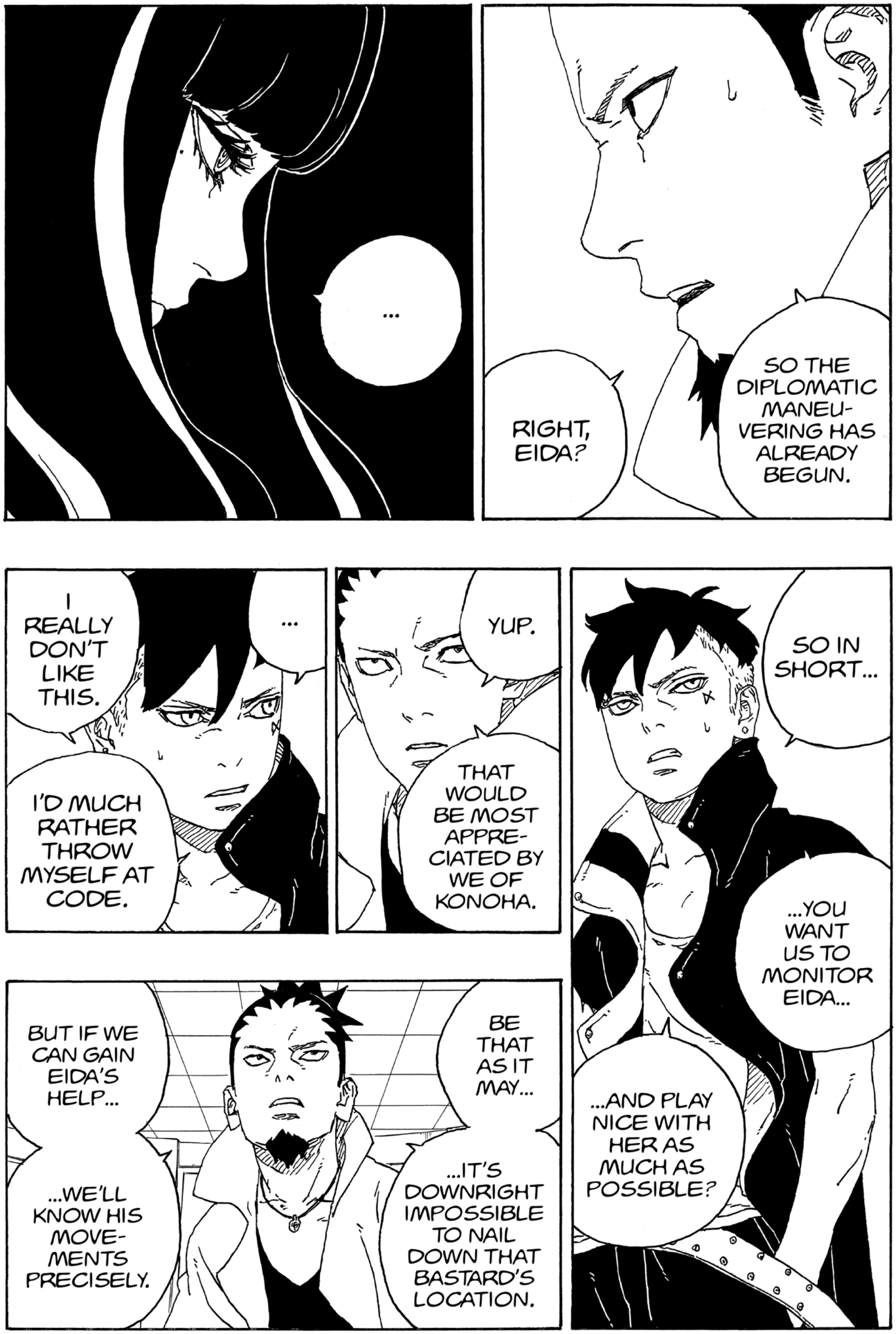

ARGH...
B-DMP
B-DMP
I MIGHT DIE BEFORE WE REACH KONOHA...
BUT DON'T WORRY, DAEMON.
THIS IS EXACTLY WHAT I'VE BEEN SEEKING.
IT'S FINE... IN FACT, IT'S MORE THAN FINE!
RIGHT NOW, I AM TRULY...
...FATALLY IN LOVE.

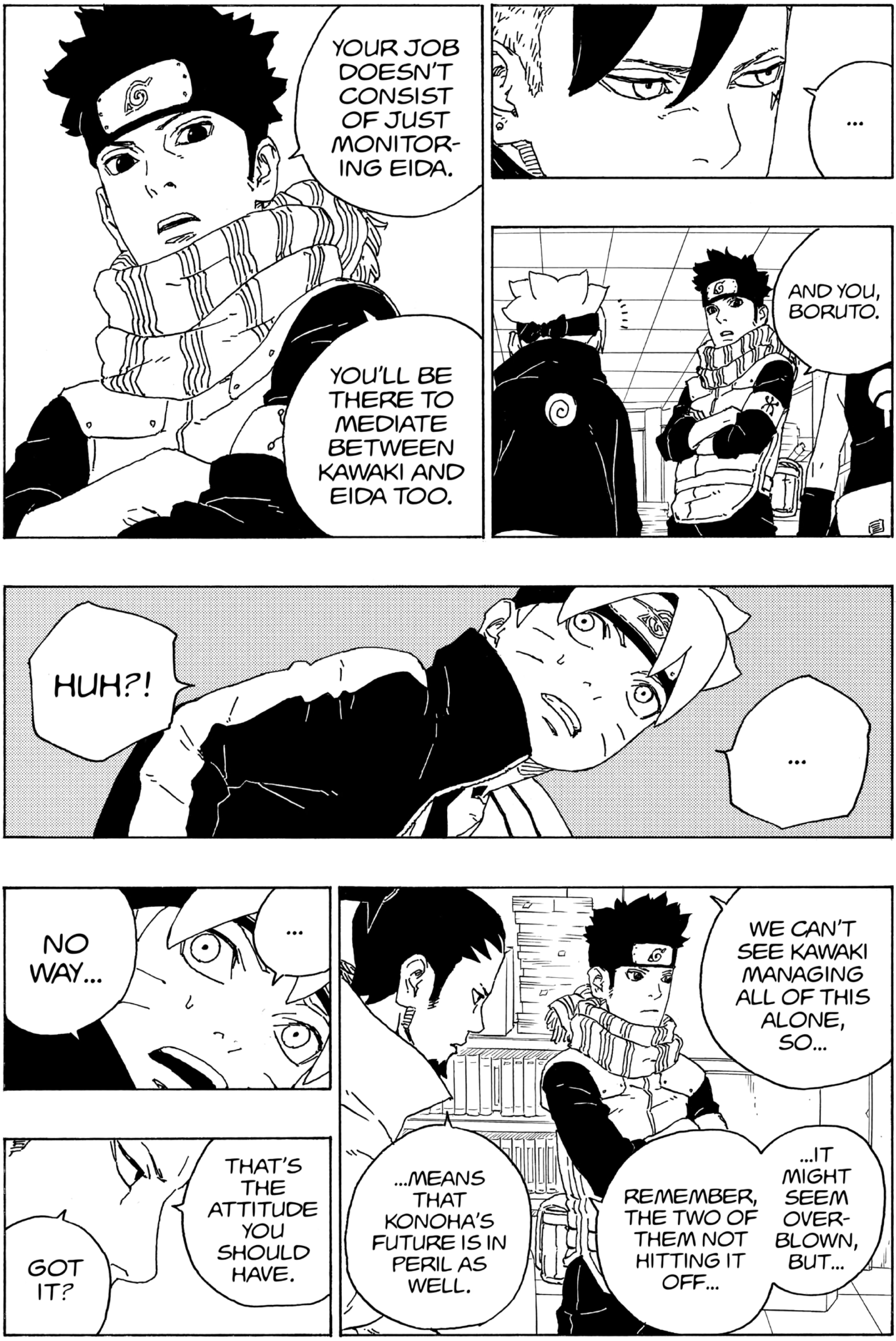

KAWAKI ...
I DON'T WANT TO INTRUDE ON YOUR PRIVATE LIFE OR PERSONAL FEELINGS, BUT...
THIS IS EIDA'S NUMBER ONE REASON FOR COMING TO KONOHA.
JUST BE REALLY CAREFUL HOW YOU REACT TOWARD HER.
I AIN'T EXAGGERATING WHEN I SAY THAT KONOHA'S FUTURE HINGES ON YOUR CONDUCT.
...
...
DAMMIT, FOR REAL?
...
HEY...
ANY ORDINARY PERSON CRUSHES ON EIDA, RIGHT?
SO SHE'S GOT A HUGE POOL TO PICK FROM.
WHY GO AFTER KAWAKI, ON WHOM HER ABILITY DOESN'T WORK?
...

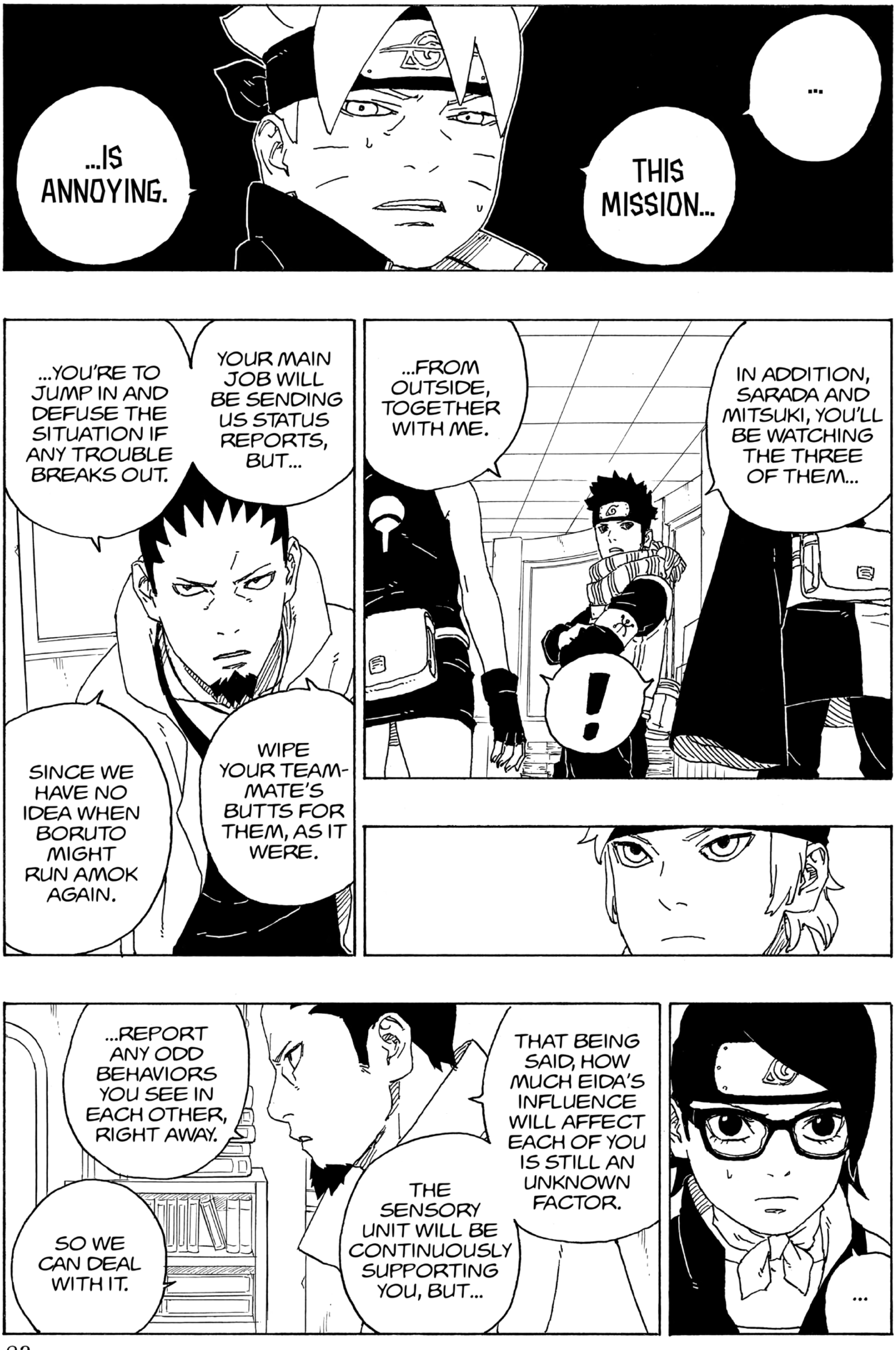

UM...
THIS IS...
...PURELY A GUESS ON MY PART, BUT...
ISN'T IT A BIT DISTASTEFUL TO THINK THAT...
...SOMEONE LIKES YOU BECAUSE OF...
...AN INNATE ABILITY...
...OR SOME JUTSU OF YOURS?
...
I THINK THAT THIS MISS EIDA...
...WANTS TO EXPERIENCE A COMPLETELY...
...ORDINARY...
...ROMANCE.

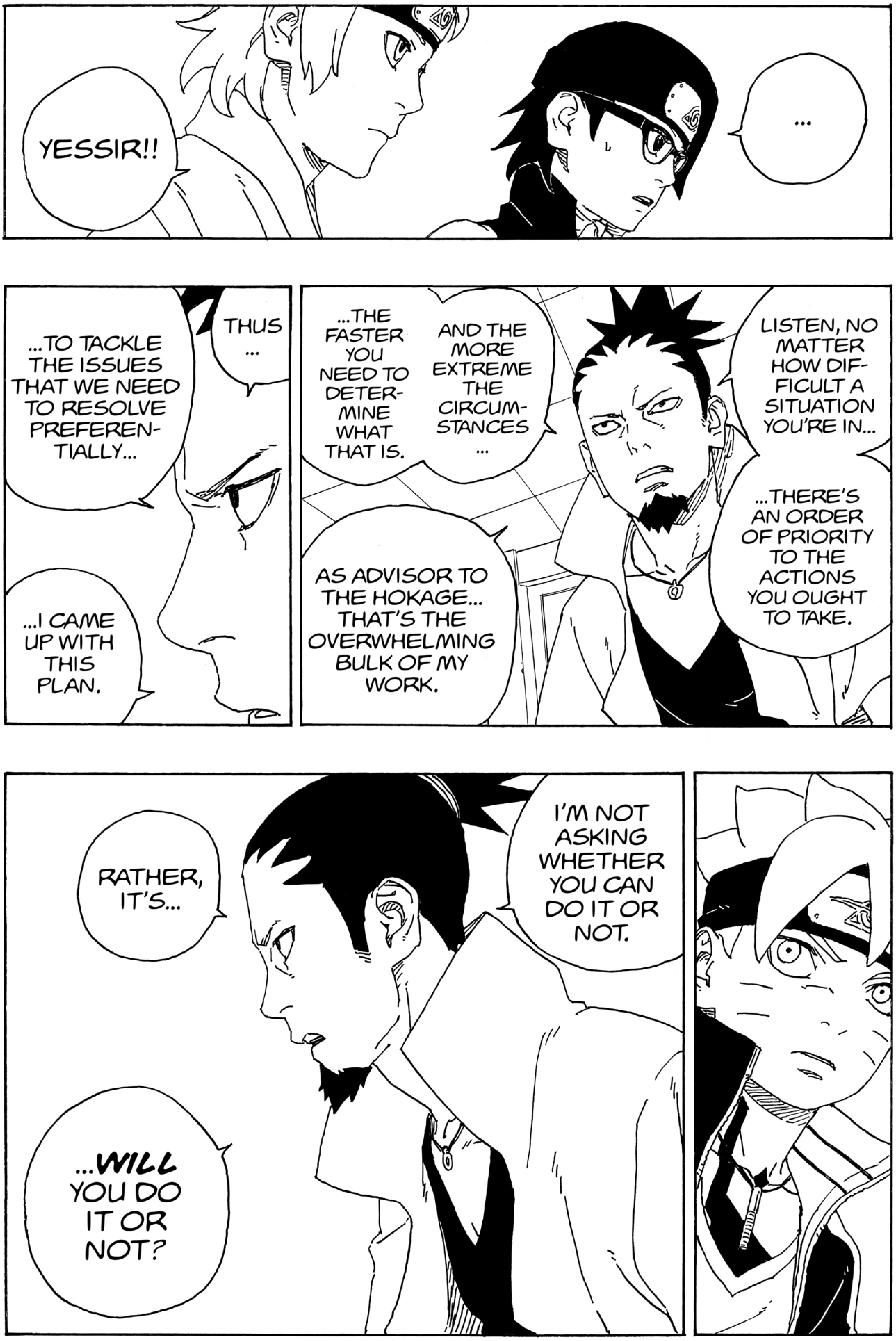

...
NOT THAT I KNOW FOR SURE.
...
I DON'T GET IT.
THAT'S JUST PLAIN ILLOGICAL.
MAYBE SHE'S STUPID?
EIDA CAN **SEE** EVERYTHING.
AND HEAR IT ALL.
SHE HAS THOSE ABILITIES TOO.
BY THE WAY...
YOU SHOULD AVOID SAYING BAD THINGS ABOUT HER.

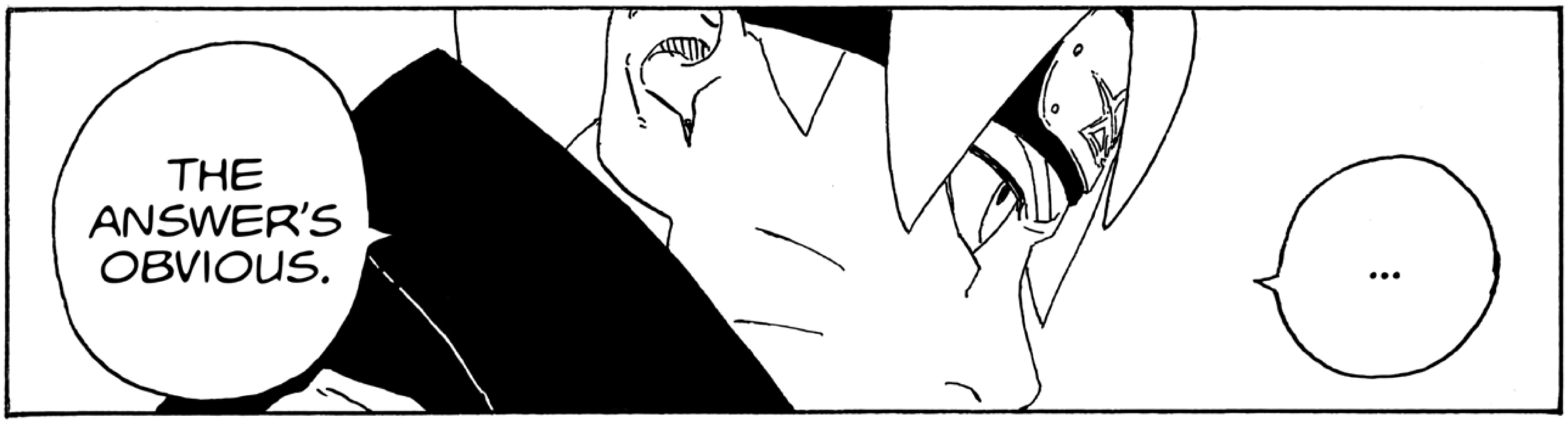

WHAT?!
THE HECK?
NO WAY...
ARE YOU SERIOUS?
SHE MIGHT NOT BE WATCHING US THIS MINUTE...
...BUT IT SEEMS SHE CAN ALSO REPLAY PAST EVENTS.
FOR REAL?
THAT'S WAY BEYOND CHEATING!
LIKE SKIMMING THROUGH A VIDEO RECORDING.
...
AT ANY RATE, EVERYTHING BEING SAID HERE SHOULD BE CONSIDERED LEAKED.
OF COURSE, I'M DISCLOSING YOUR MISSION TO YOU, KNOWING THAT.

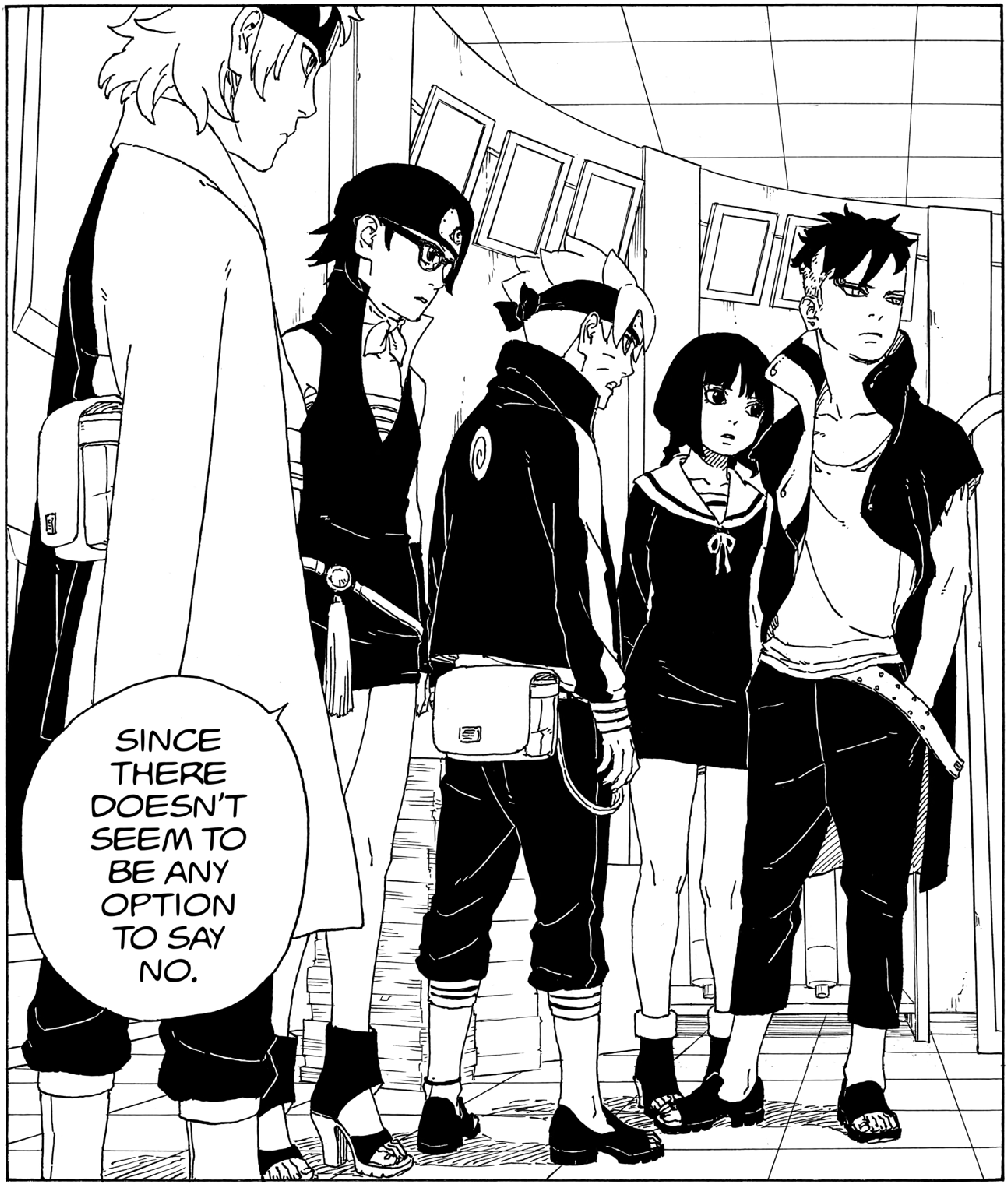

SO THE DIPLOMATIC MANEUVERING HAS ALREADY BEGUN.
RIGHT, EIDA?
...
SO IN SHORT...
...YOU WANT US TO MONITOR EIDA...
...AND PLAY NICE WITH HER AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE?
YUP.
THAT WOULD BE MOST APPRECIATED BY WE OF KONOHA.
...
I REALLY DON'T LIKE THIS.
I'D MUCH RATHER THROW MYSELF AT CODE.
BE THAT AS IT MAY...
...IT'S DOWNRIGHT IMPOSSIBLE TO NAIL DOWN THAT BASTARD'S LOCATION.
BUT IF WE CAN GAIN EIDA'S HELP...
...WE'LL KNOW HIS MOVEMENTS PRECISELY.

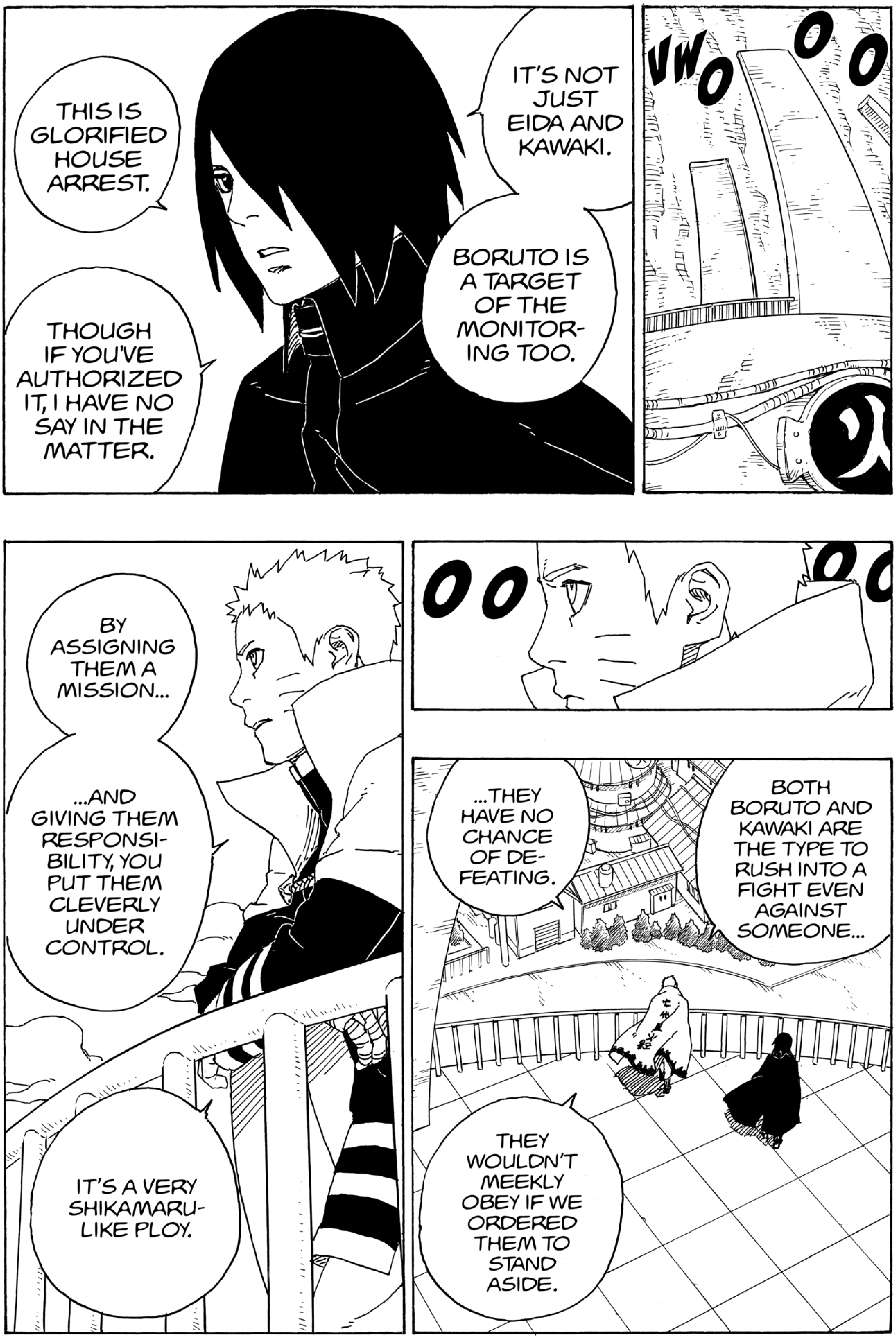

YOUR JOB DOESN'T CONSIST OF JUST MONITORING EIDA.
YOU'LL BE THERE TO MEDIATE BETWEEN KAWAKI AND EIDA TOO.
...
AND YOU, BORUTO.
HUH?!
...
NO WAY...
...
WE CAN'T SEE KAWAKI MANAGING ALL OF THIS ALONE, SO...
...IT MIGHT SEEM OVERBLOWN, BUT...
REMEMBER, THE TWO OF THEM NOT HITTING IT OFF...
...MEANS THAT KONOHA'S FUTURE IS IN PERIL AS WELL.
THAT'S THE ATTITUDE YOU SHOULD HAVE.
GOT IT?

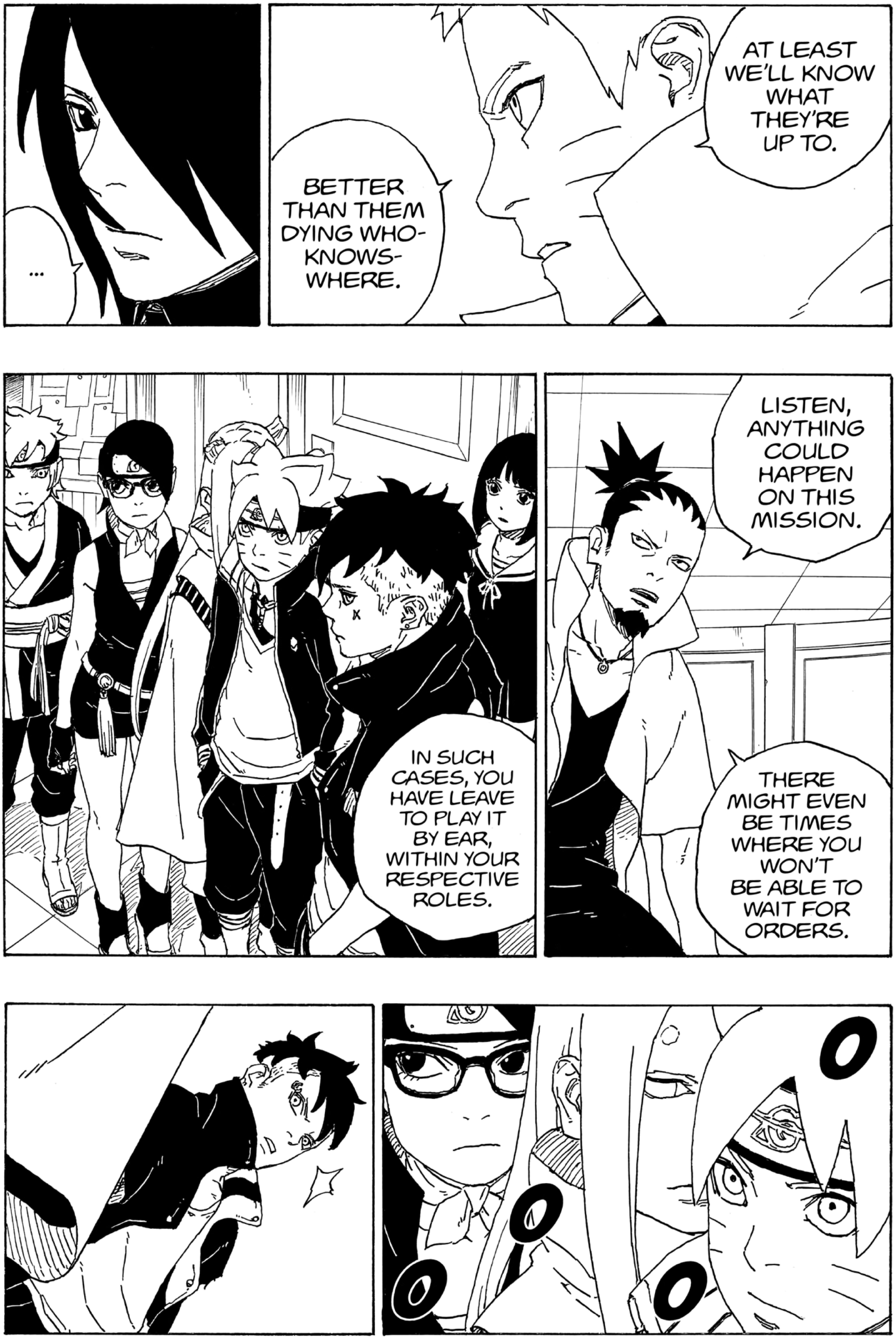

...
THIS MISSION...
...IS ANNOYING.
IN ADDITION, SARADA AND MITSUKI, YOU'LL BE WATCHING THE THREE OF THEM...
...FROM OUTSIDE, TOGETHER WITH ME.
!
YOUR MAIN JOB WILL BE SENDING US STATUS REPORTS, BUT...
...YOU'RE TO JUMP IN AND DEFUSE THE SITUATION IF ANY TROUBLE BREAKS OUT.
WIPE YOUR TEAMMATE'S BUTTS FOR THEM, AS IT WERE.
SINCE WE HAVE NO IDEA WHEN BORUTO MIGHT RUN AMOK AGAIN.
...
THAT BEING SAID, HOW MUCH EIDA'S INFLUENCE WILL AFFECT EACH OF YOU IS STILL AN UNKNOWN FACTOR.
THE SENSORY UNIT WILL BE CONTINUOUSLY SUPPORTING YOU, BUT...
...REPORT ANY ODD BEHAVIORS YOU SEE IN EACH OTHER, RIGHT AWAY.
SO WE CAN DEAL WITH IT.

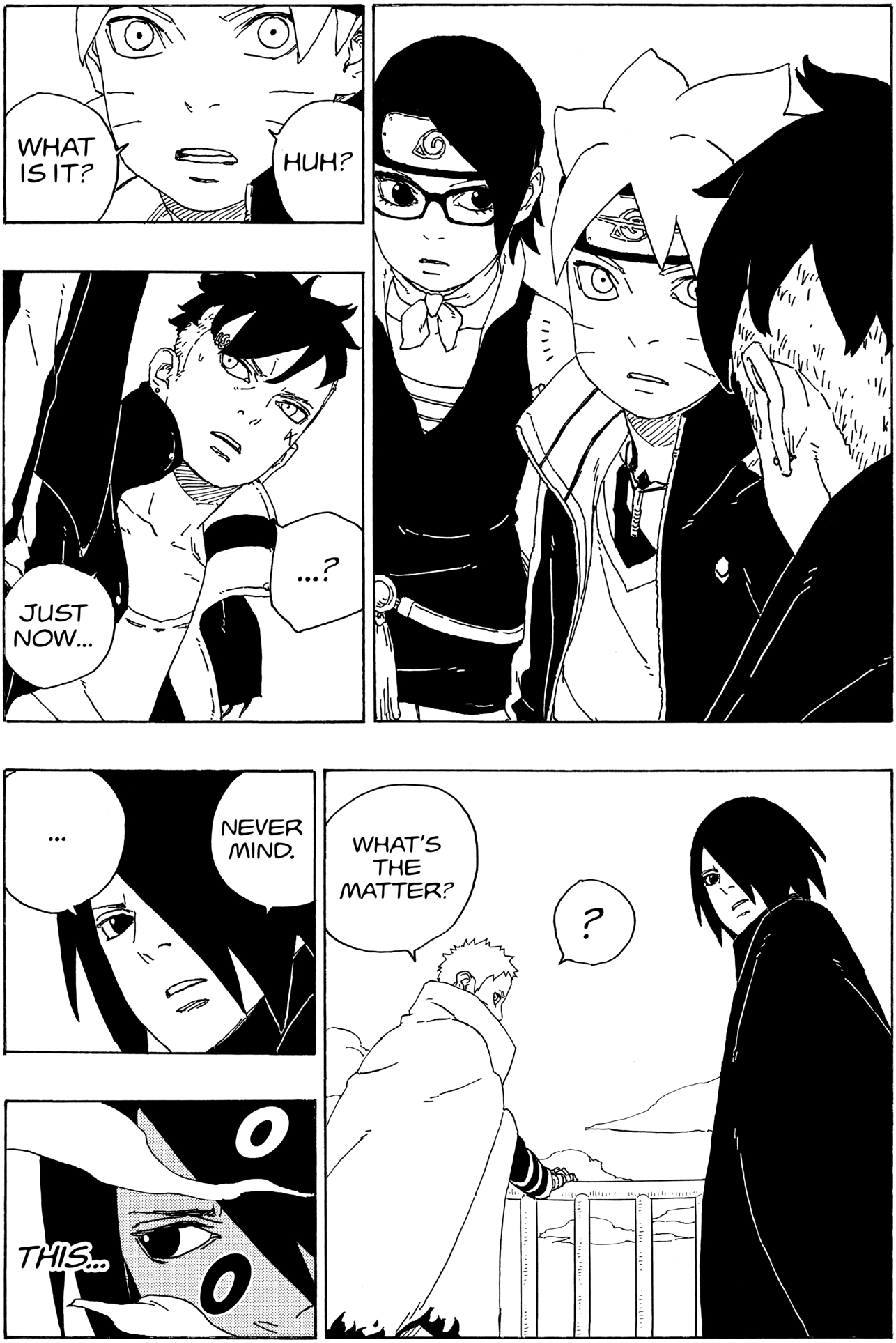

...
YESSIR!!
LISTEN, NO MATTER HOW DIFFICULT A SITUATION YOU'RE IN...
...THERE'S AN ORDER OF PRIORITY TO THE ACTIONS YOU OUGHT TO TAKE.
AND THE MORE EXTREME THE CIRCUMSTANCES...
...THE FASTER YOU NEED TO DETERMINE WHAT THAT IS.
AS ADVISOR TO THE HOKAGE... THAT'S THE OVERWHELMING BULK OF MY WORK.
THUS...
...TO TACKLE THE ISSUES THAT WE NEED TO RESOLVE PREFERENTIALLY...
...I CAME UP WITH THIS PLAN.
I'M NOT ASKING WHETHER YOU CAN DO IT OR NOT.
RATHER, IT'S...
...**WILL** YOU DO IT OR NOT?


…
THE ANSWER'S OBVIOUS.


SINCE THERE DOESN'T SEEM TO BE ANY OPTION TO SAY NO.


VWOOOO
IT'S NOT JUST EIDA AND KAWAKI.
BORUTO IS A TARGET OF THE MONITORING TOO.
THIS IS GLORIFIED HOUSE ARREST.
THOUGH IF YOU'VE AUTHORIZED IT, I HAVE NO SAY IN THE MATTER.
OOOO
BOTH BORUTO AND KAWAKI ARE THE TYPE TO RUSH INTO A FIGHT EVEN AGAINST SOMEONE...
...THEY HAVE NO CHANCE OF DEFEATING.
THEY WOULDN'T MEEKLY OBEY IF WE ORDERED THEM TO STAND ASIDE.
BY ASSIGNING THEM A MISSION...
...AND GIVING THEM RESPONSIBILITY, YOU PUT THEM CLEVERLY UNDER CONTROL.
IT'S A VERY SHIKAMARU-LIKE PLOY.


AT LEAST WE'LL KNOW WHAT THEY'RE UP TO.
BETTER THAN THEM DYING WHO-KNOWS-WHERE.
...
LISTEN, ANYTHING COULD HAPPEN ON THIS MISSION.
THERE MIGHT EVEN BE TIMES WHERE YOU WON'T BE ABLE TO WAIT FOR ORDERS.
IN SUCH CASES, YOU HAVE LEAVE TO PLAY IT BY EAR, WITHIN YOUR RESPECTIVE ROLES.

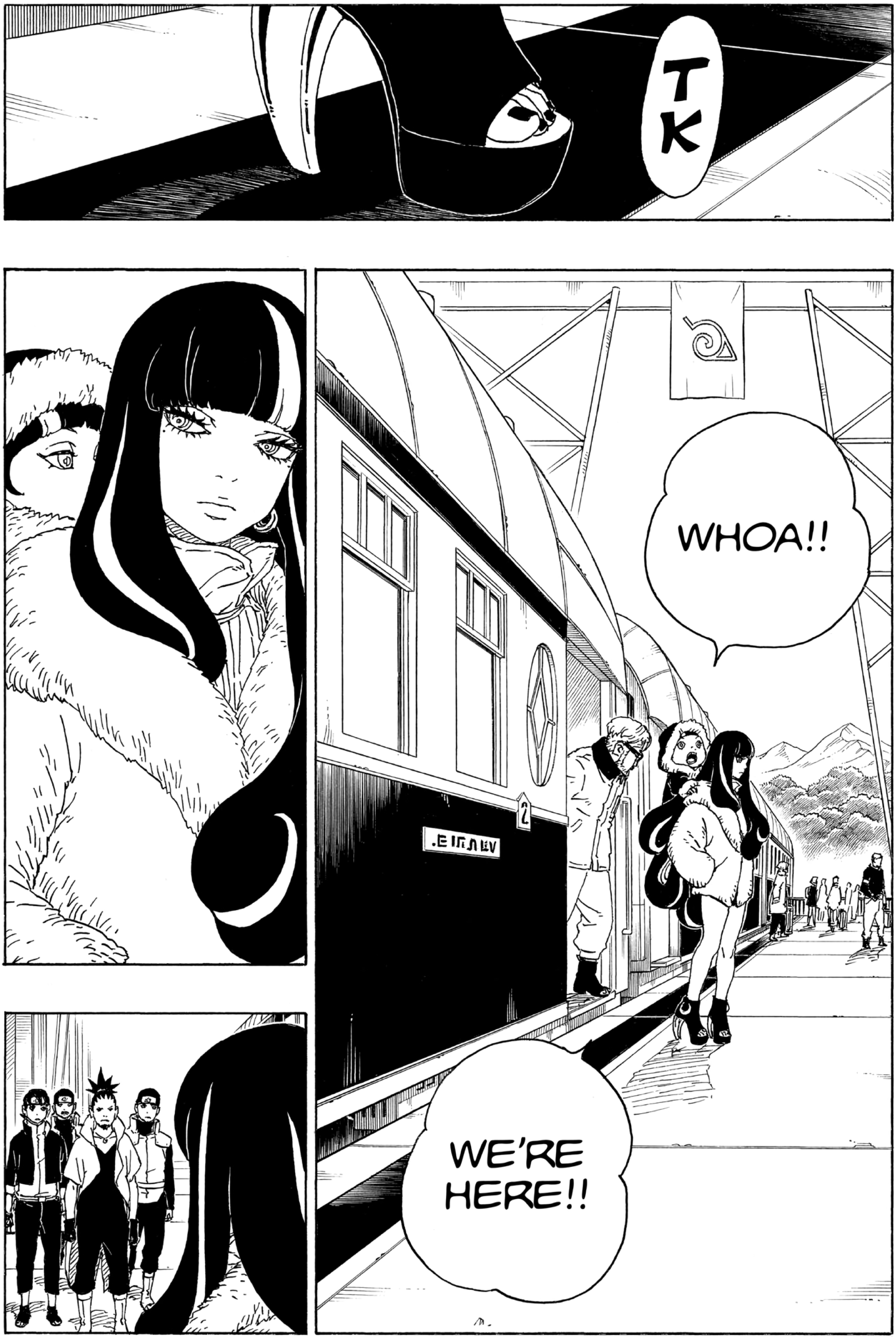

HUH?
WHAT IS IT?
...?
JUST NOW...
?
WHAT'S THE MATTER?
NEVER MIND.
...
THIS...

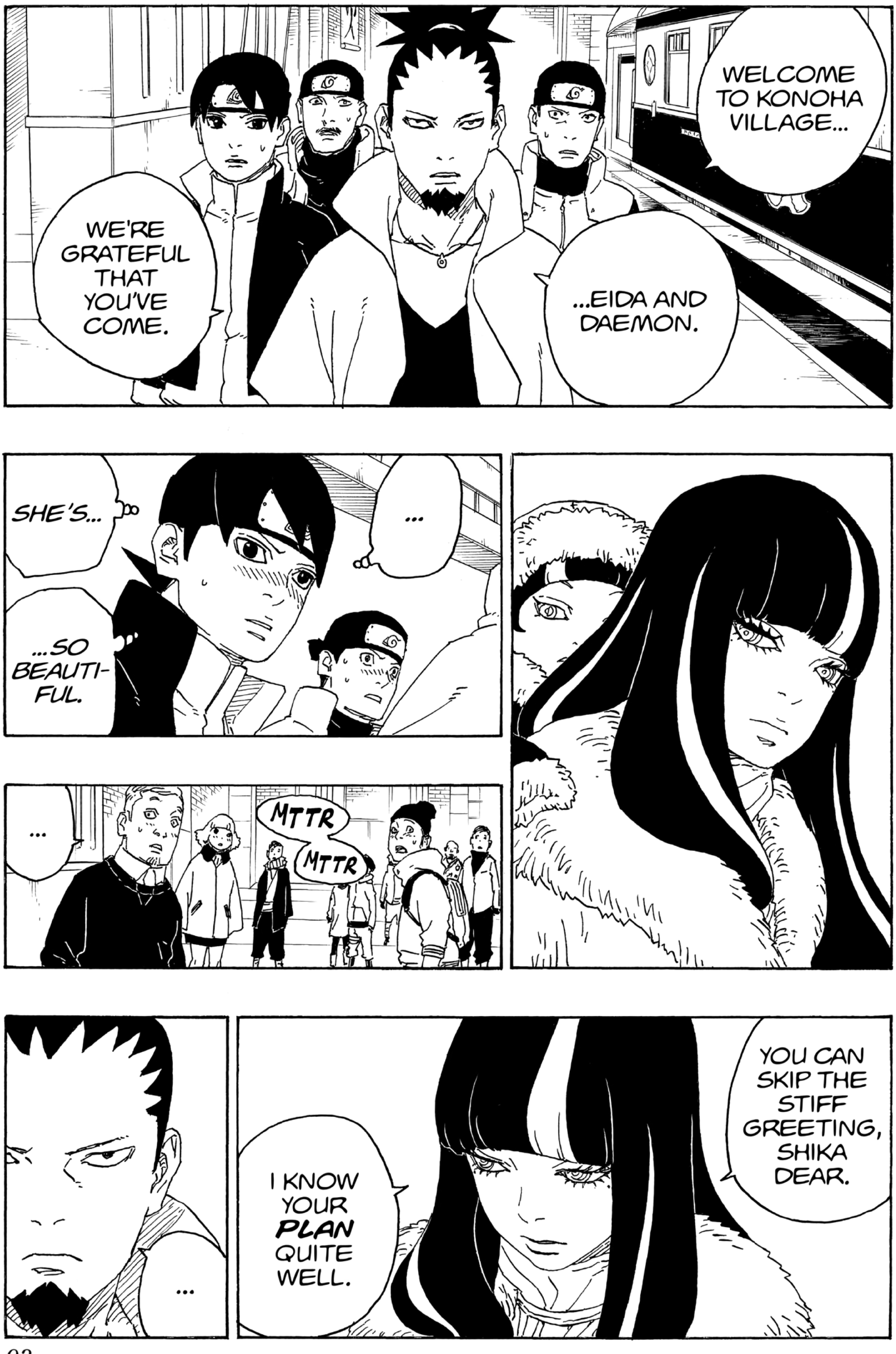
O O O
O O O O
O O O
THIS FEELING...
IT'S SIMILAR TO THAT DAY.
I WONDER...
AH...
SHIKA DEAR...
YOU HAVE SUCH **INTRIGUING** IDEAS.

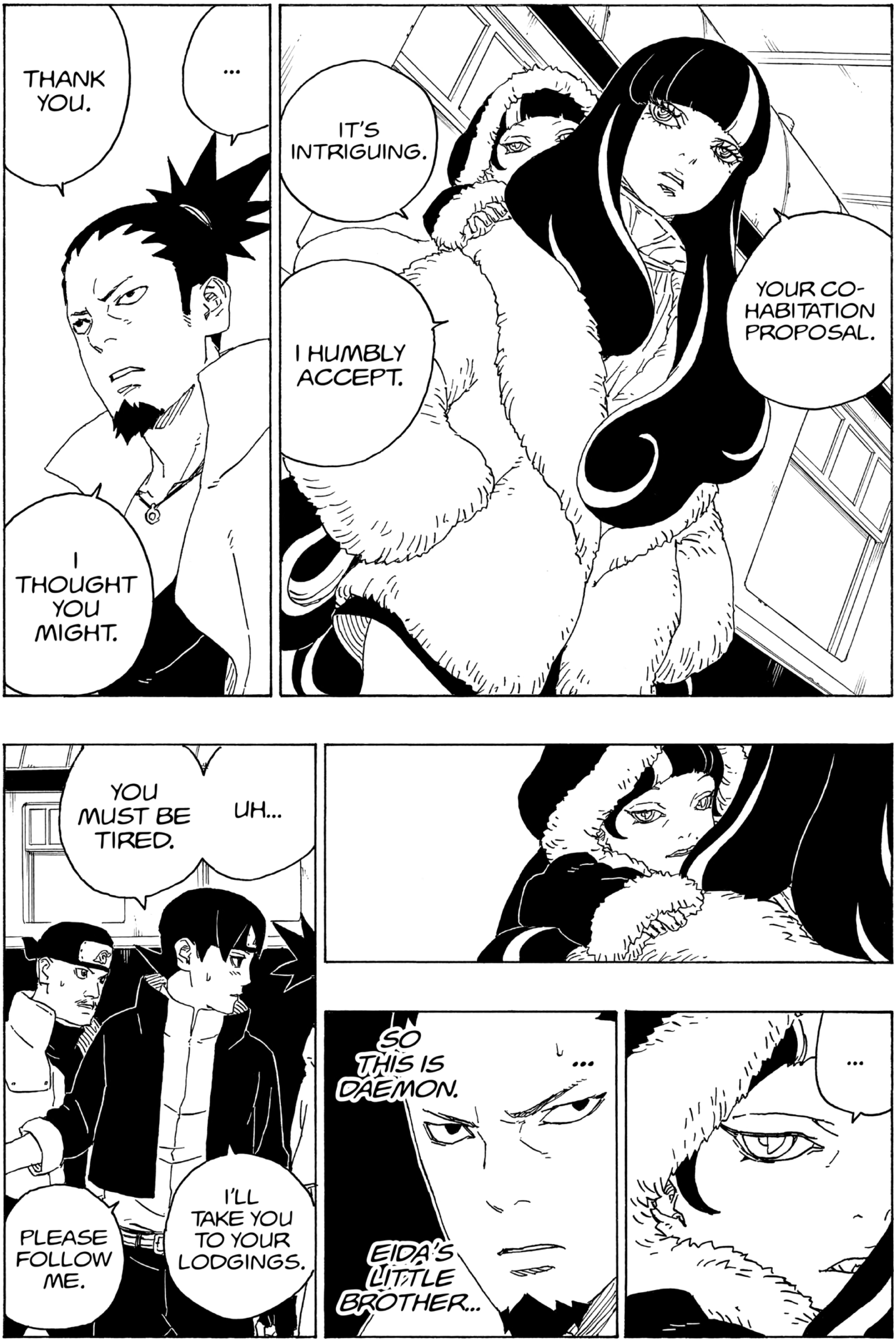
BORUTO

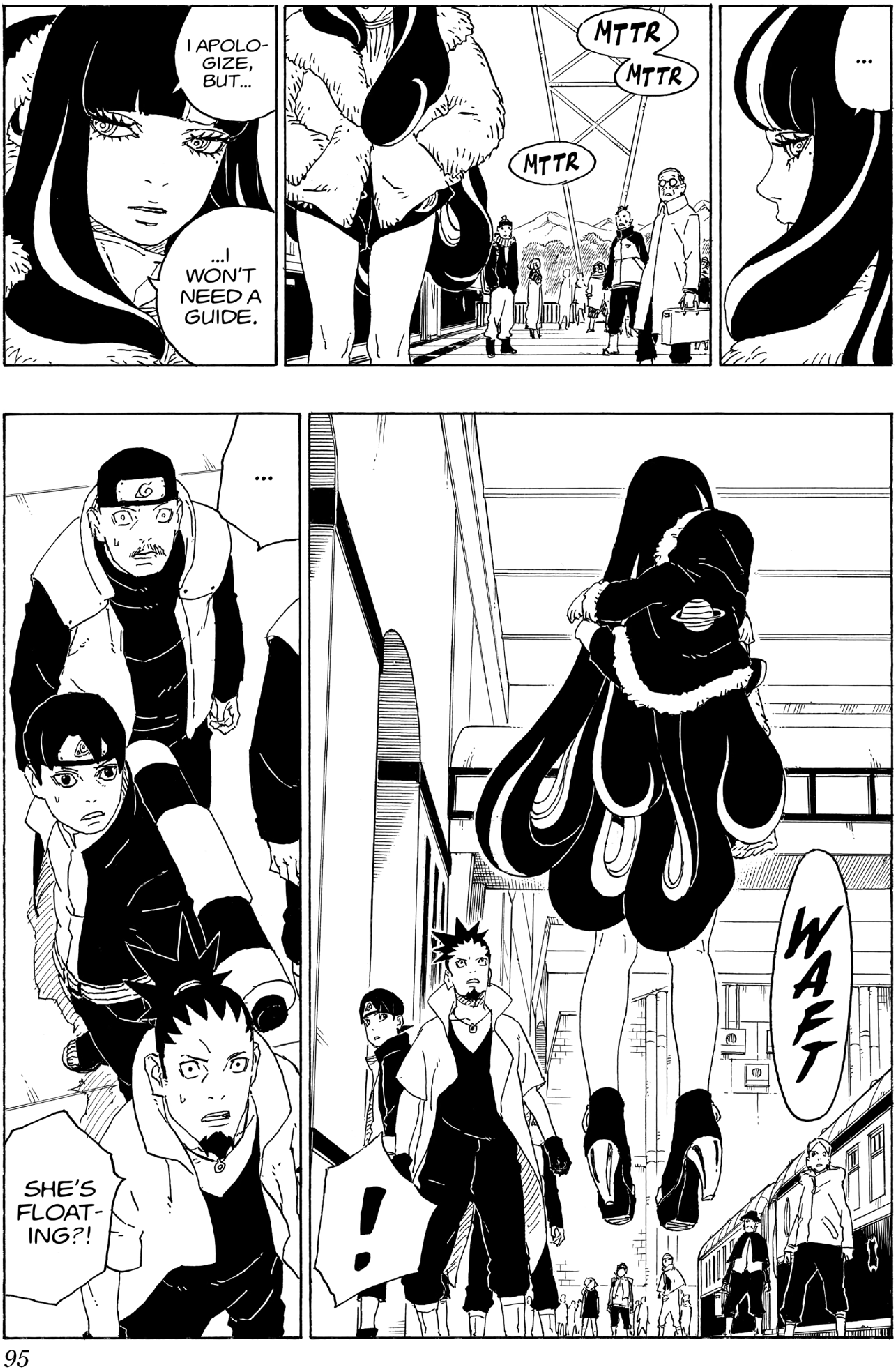
-NARUTO NEXT GENERATIONS-

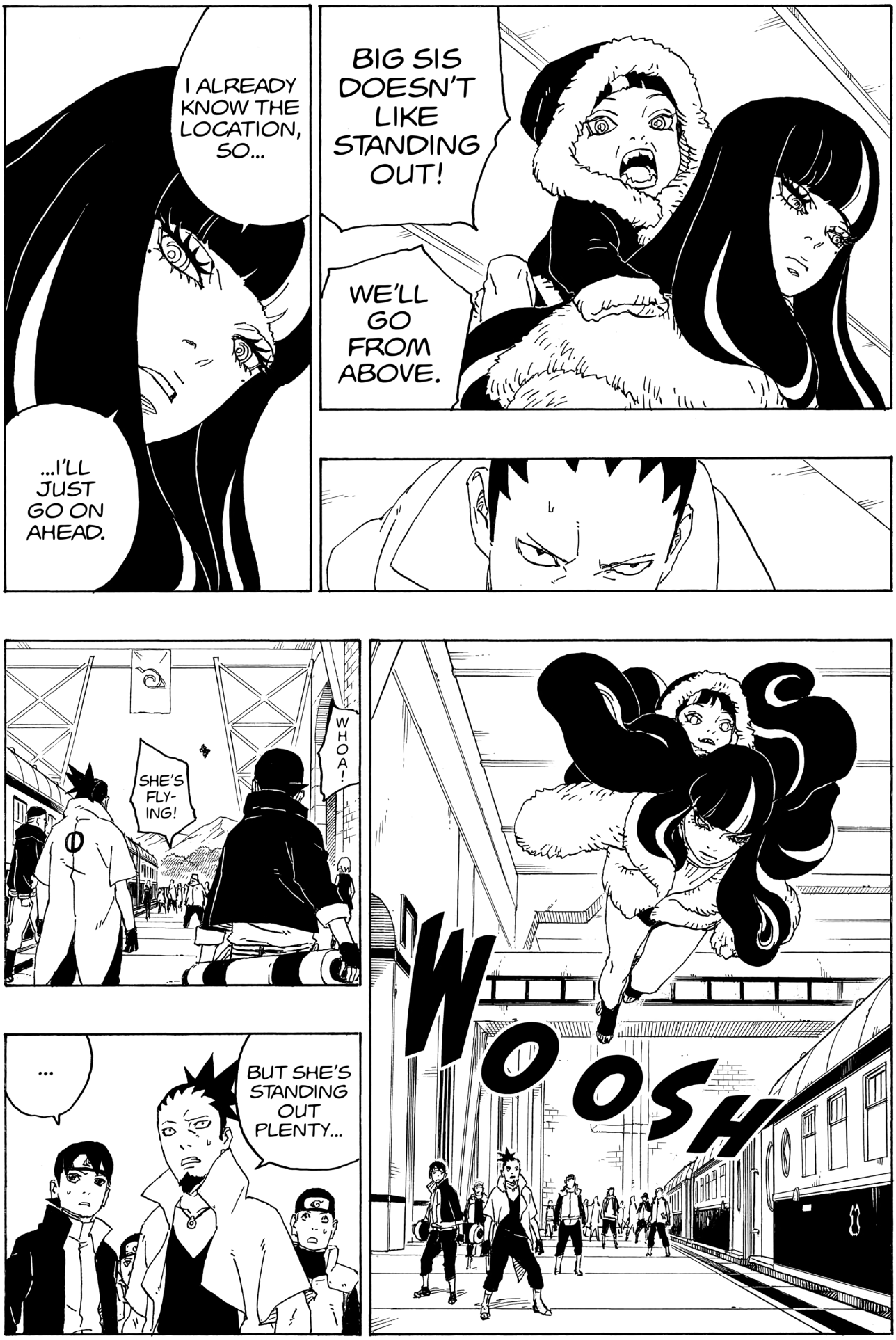
Number 74: Baptism by Fire

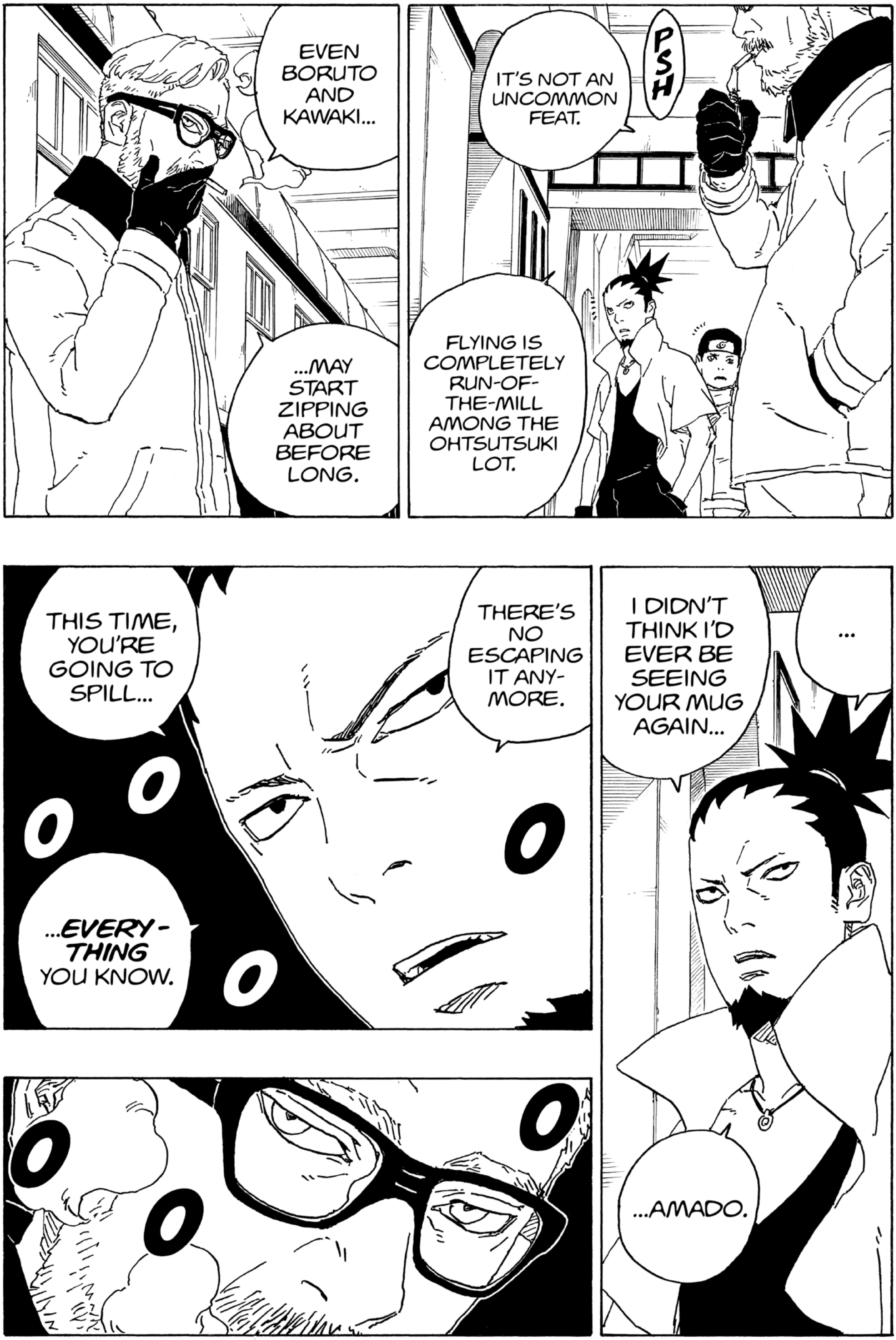

TK
WHOA!!
WE'RE HERE!!

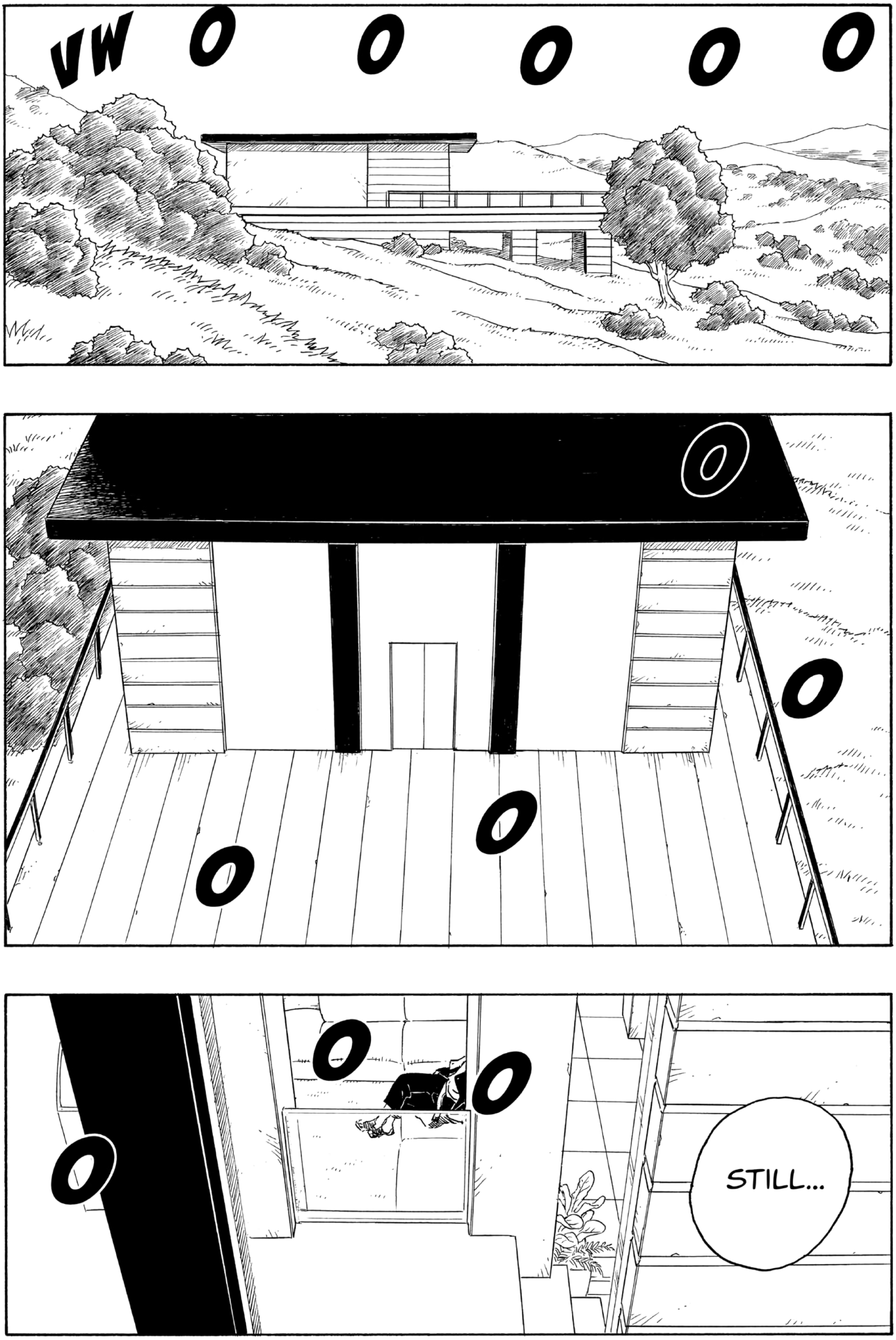

WELCOME TO KONOHA VILLAGE...
...EIDA AND DAEMON.
WE'RE GRATEFUL THAT YOU'VE COME.
...
SHE'S...
...SO BEAUTIFUL.
MTTR
MTTR
...
YOU CAN SKIP THE STIFF GREETING, SHIKA DEAR.
I KNOW YOUR PLAN QUITE WELL.
...

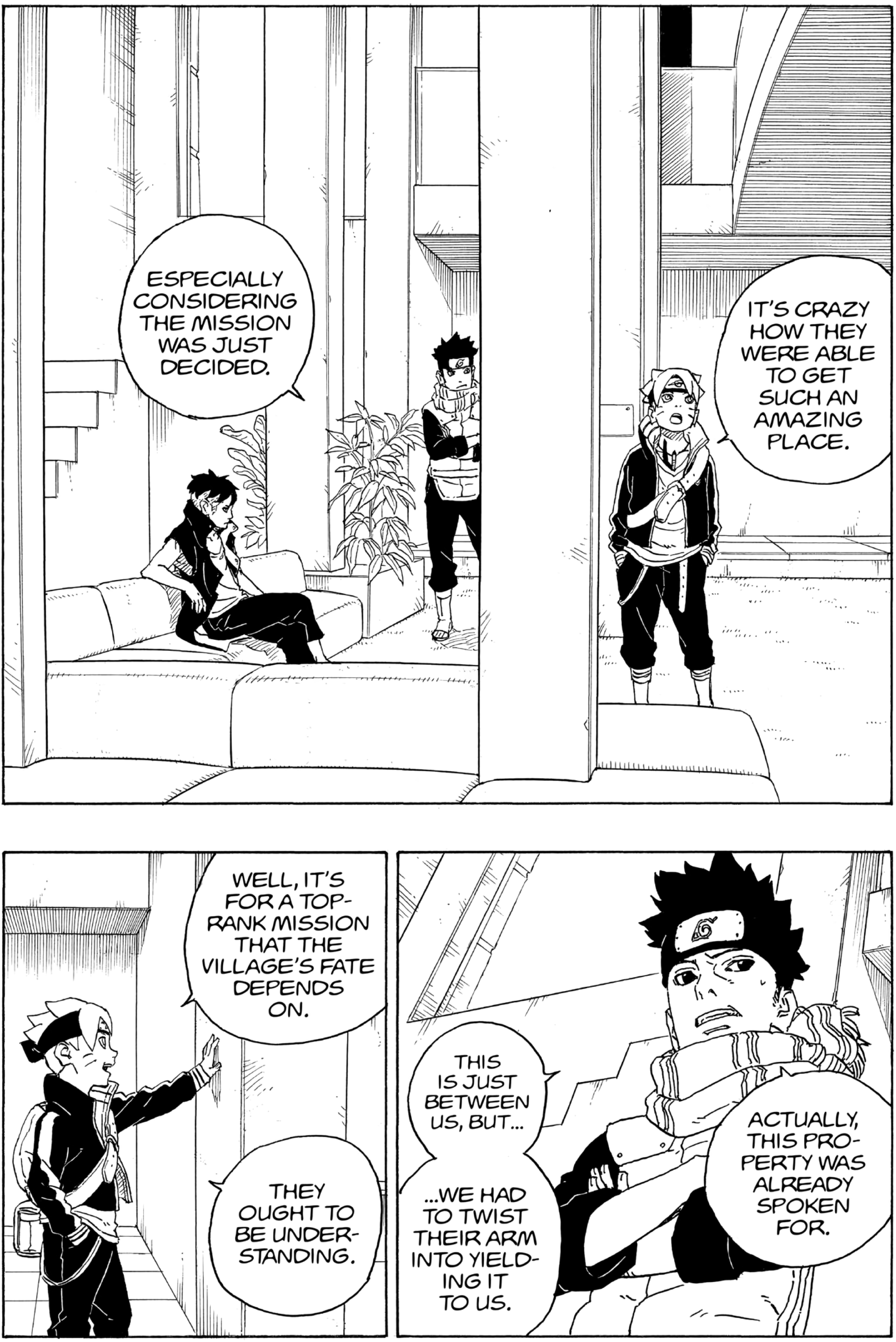

YOUR CO-HABITATION PROPOSAL.
IT'S INTRIGUING.
I HUMBLY ACCEPT.
...
THANK YOU.
I THOUGHT YOU MIGHT.
...
...
SO THIS IS DAEMON.
EIDA'S LITTLE BROTHER...
UH...
YOU MUST BE TIRED.
I'LL TAKE YOU TO YOUR LODGINGS.
PLEASE FOLLOW ME.

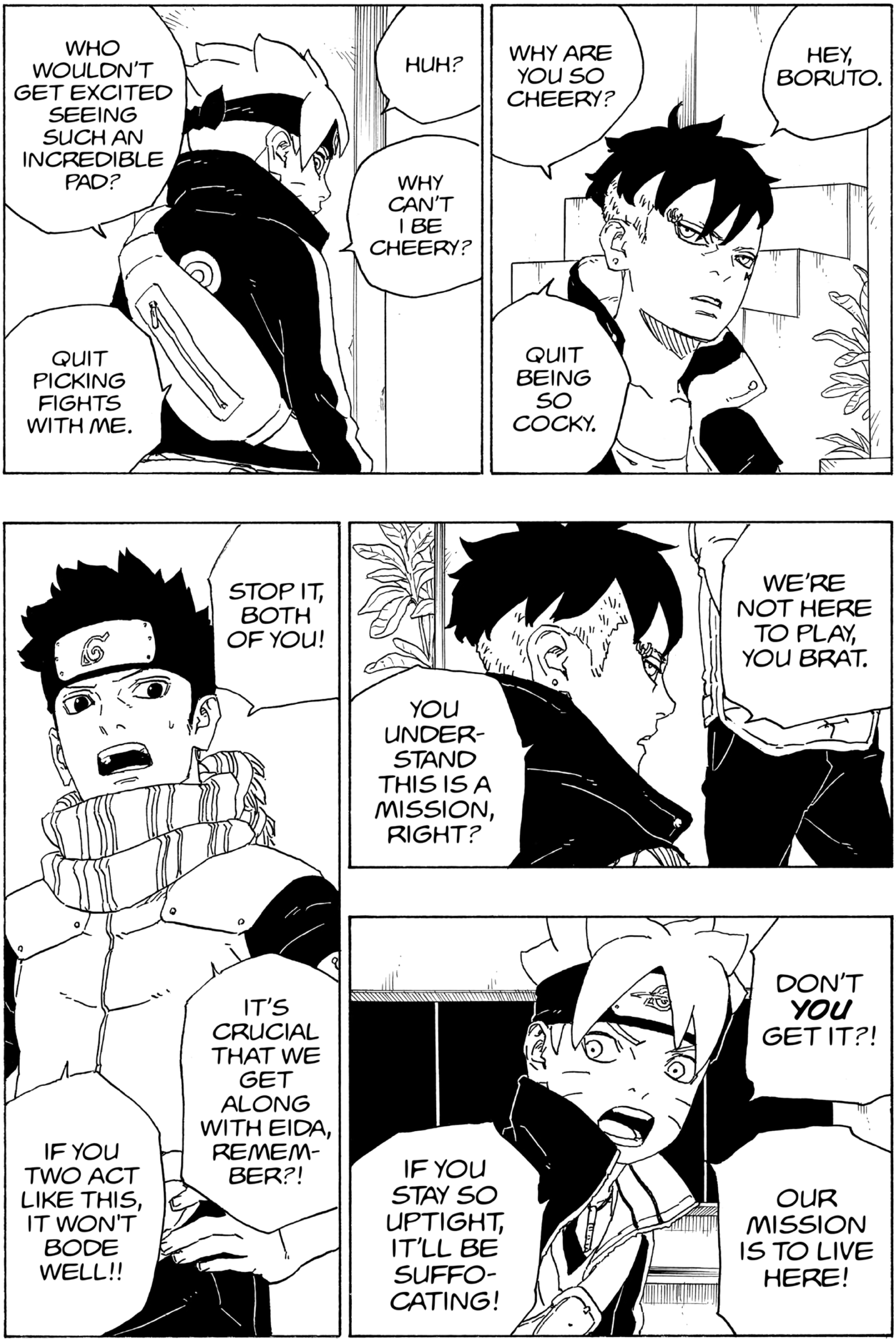

I APOLOGIZE, BUT...
...I WON'T NEED A GUIDE.
MTTR
MTTR
MTTR
...
...
SHE'S FLOATING?!
WAFT
!

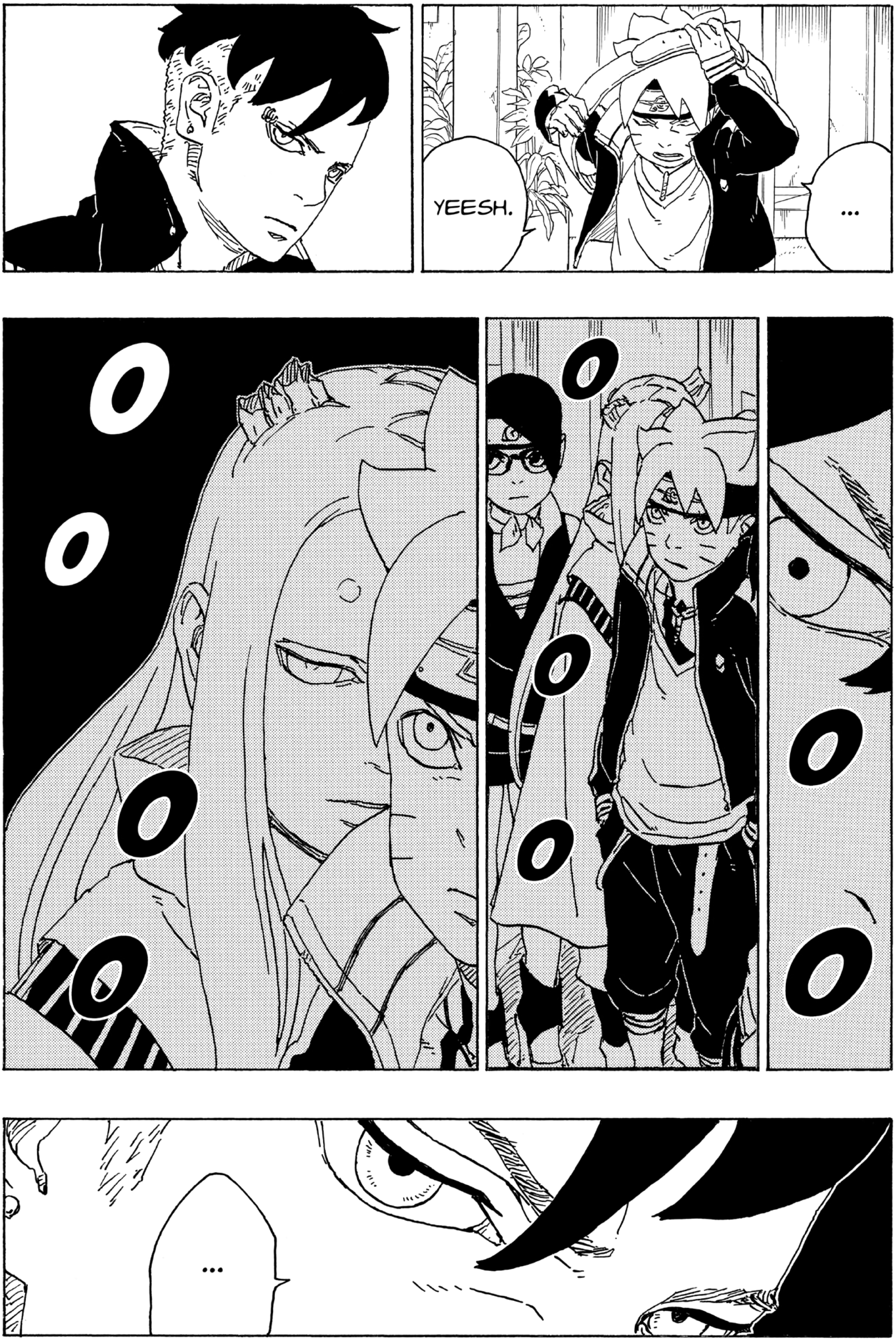

BIG SIS DOESN'T LIKE STANDING OUT!
WE'LL GO FROM ABOVE.
I ALREADY KNOW THE LOCATION, SO...
...I'LL JUST GO ON AHEAD.
WOOSH
SHE'S FLYING!
WHOA!
...
BUT SHE'S STANDING OUT PLENTY...

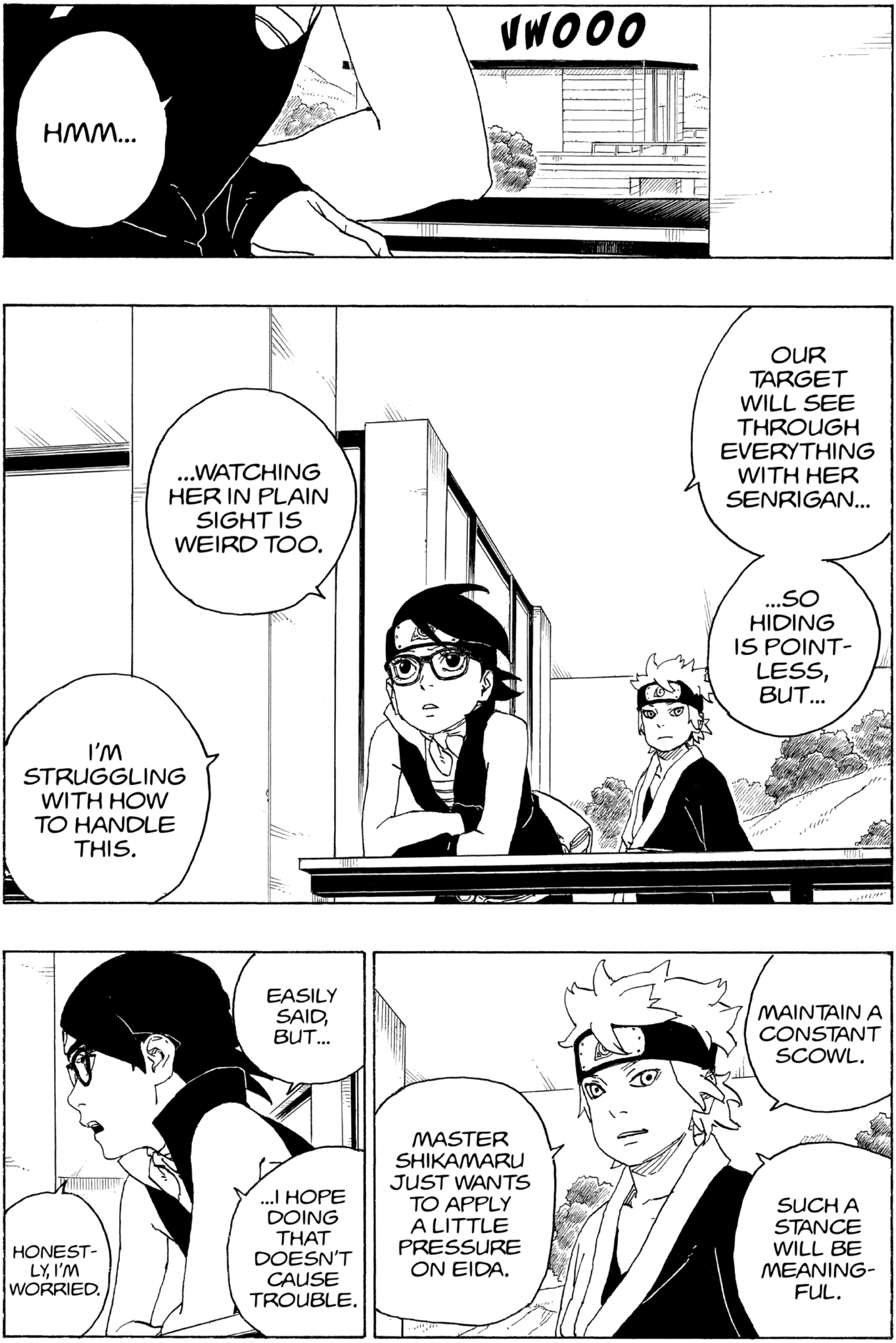

IT'S NOT AN UNCOMMON FEAT.
PSH
FLYING IS COMPLETELY RUN-OF-THE-MILL AMONG THE OHTSUTSUKI LOT.
EVEN BORUTO AND KAWAKI...
...MAY START ZIPPING ABOUT BEFORE LONG.
...
I DIDN'T THINK I'D EVER BE SEEING YOUR MUG AGAIN...
...AMADO.
THERE'S NO ESCAPING IT ANYMORE.
THIS TIME, YOU'RE GOING TO SPILL...
...*EVERYTHING* YOU KNOW.

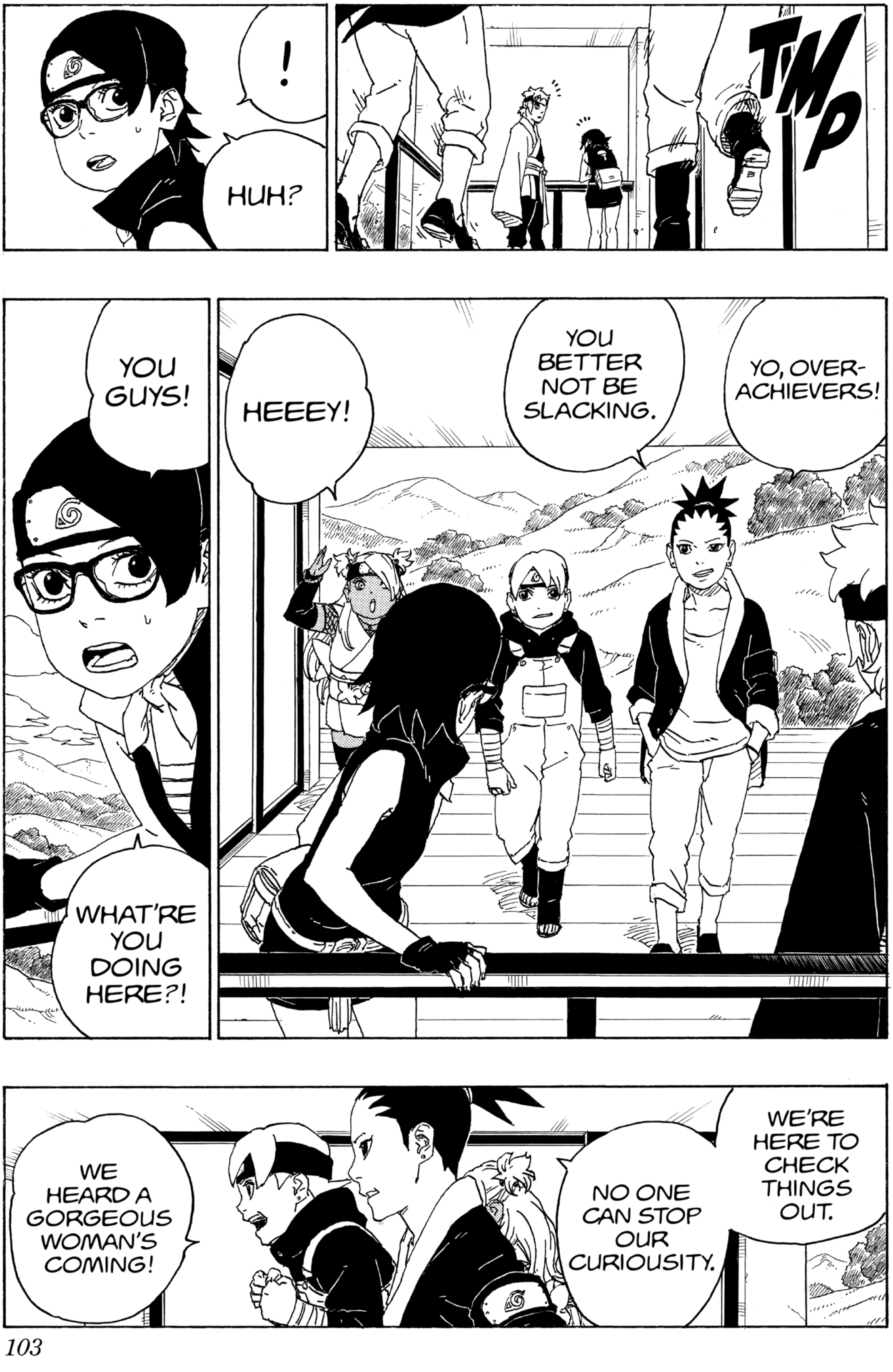

VWOOOOO
O
O
O
O
O
O
O
STILL...

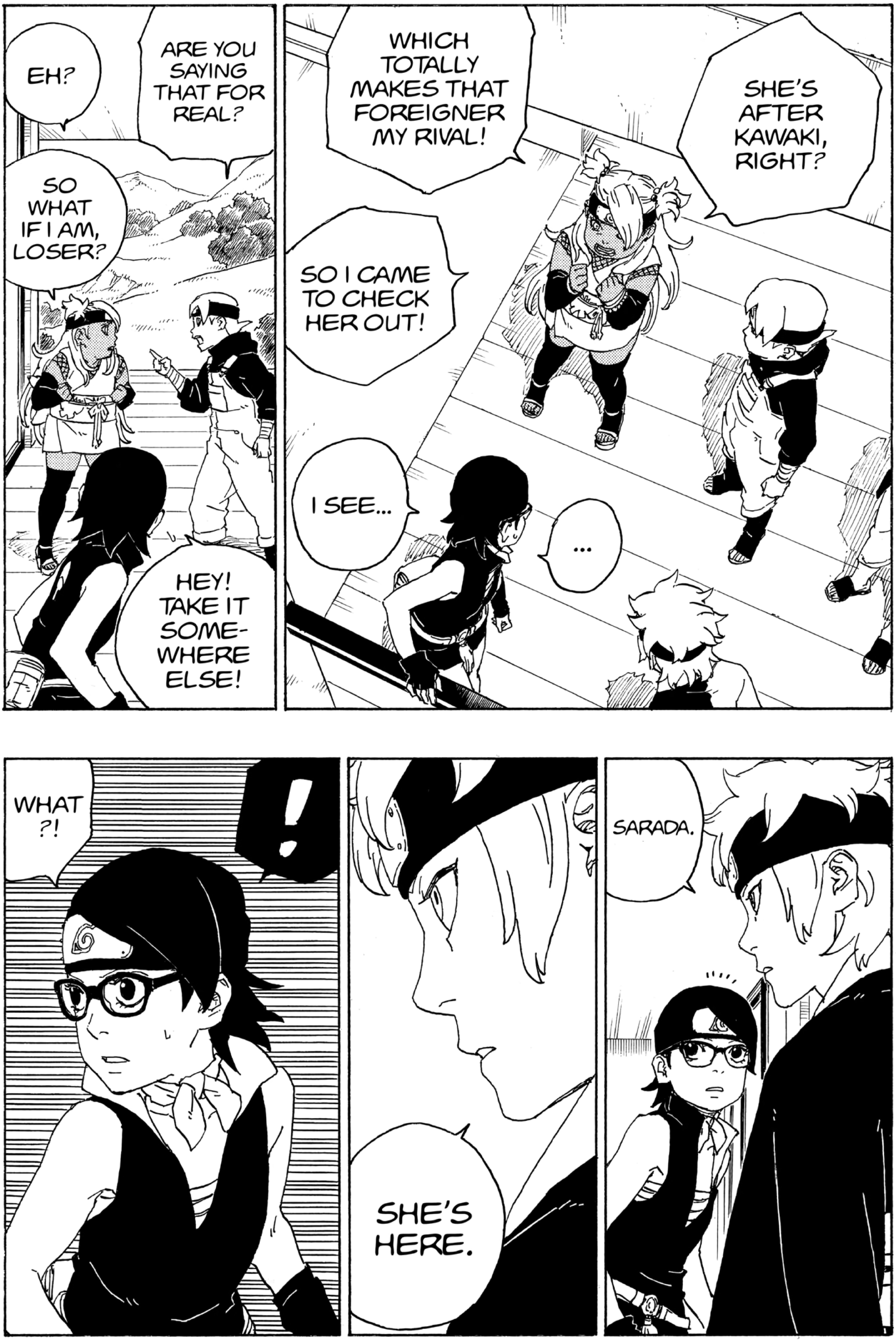

IT'S CRAZY HOW THEY WERE ABLE TO GET SUCH AN AMAZING PLACE.
ESPECIALLY CONSIDERING THE MISSION WAS JUST DECIDED.
WELL, IT'S FOR A TOP-RANK MISSION THAT THE VILLAGE'S FATE DEPENDS ON.
THEY OUGHT TO BE UNDERSTANDING.
ACTUALLY, THIS PROPERTY WAS ALREADY SPOKEN FOR.
THIS IS JUST BETWEEN US, BUT...
...WE HAD TO TWIST THEIR ARM INTO YIELDING IT TO US.

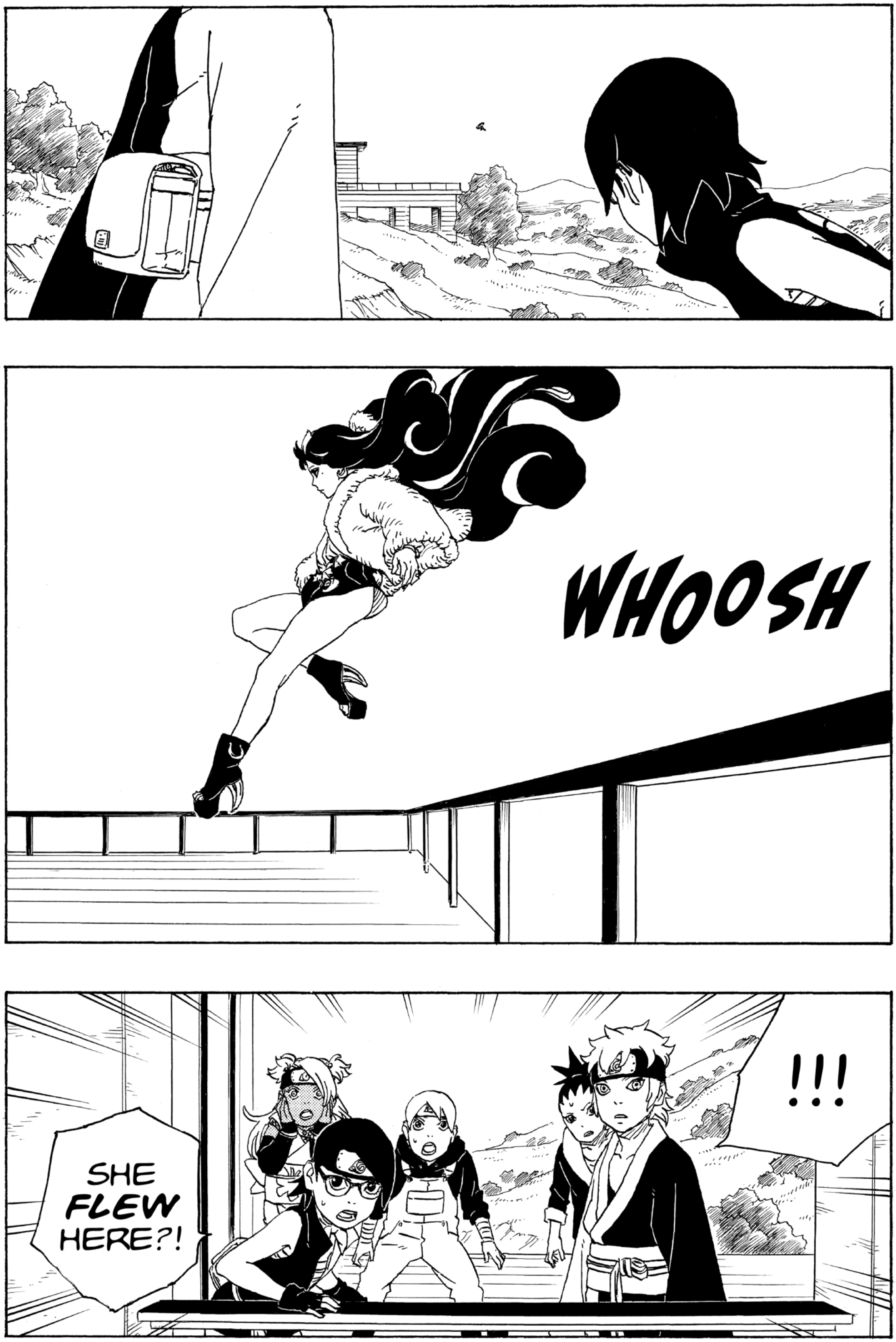

HEY, BORUTO.
WHY ARE YOU SO CHEERY?
QUIT BEING SO COCKY.
HUH?
WHY CAN'T I BE CHEERY?
WHO WOULDN'T GET EXCITED SEEING SUCH AN INCREDIBLE PAD?
QUIT PICKING FIGHTS WITH ME.
WE'RE NOT HERE TO PLAY, YOU BRAT.
YOU UNDERSTAND THIS IS A MISSION, RIGHT?
DON'T ***YOU*** GET IT?!
OUR MISSION IS TO LIVE HERE!
IF YOU STAY SO UPTIGHT, IT'LL BE SUFFOCATING!
STOP IT, BOTH OF YOU!
IT'S CRUCIAL THAT WE GET ALONG WITH EIDA, REMEMBER?!
IF YOU TWO ACT LIKE THIS, IT WON'T BODE WELL!!

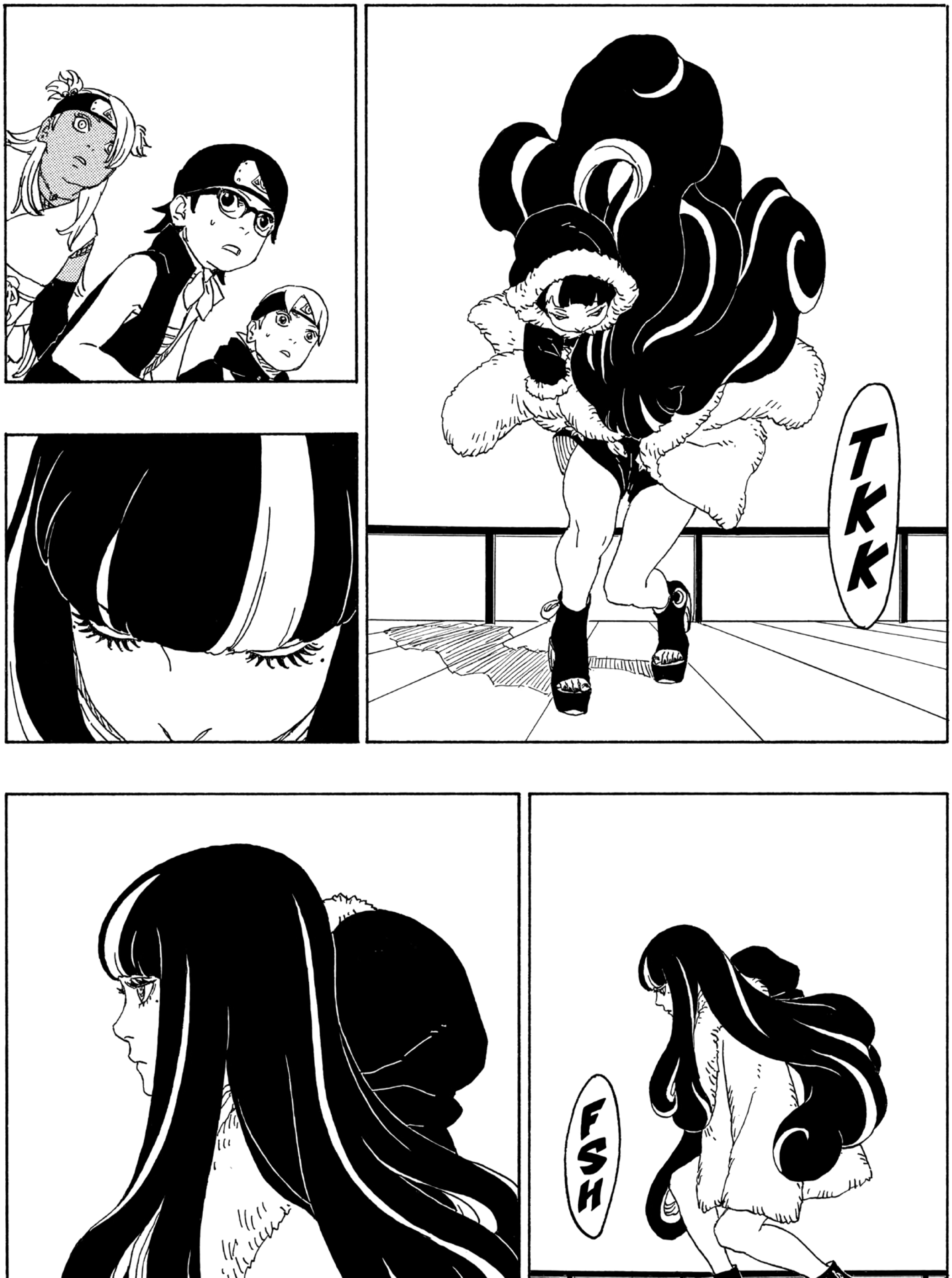

...
YEESH.
O O O O O
O O O O O
...

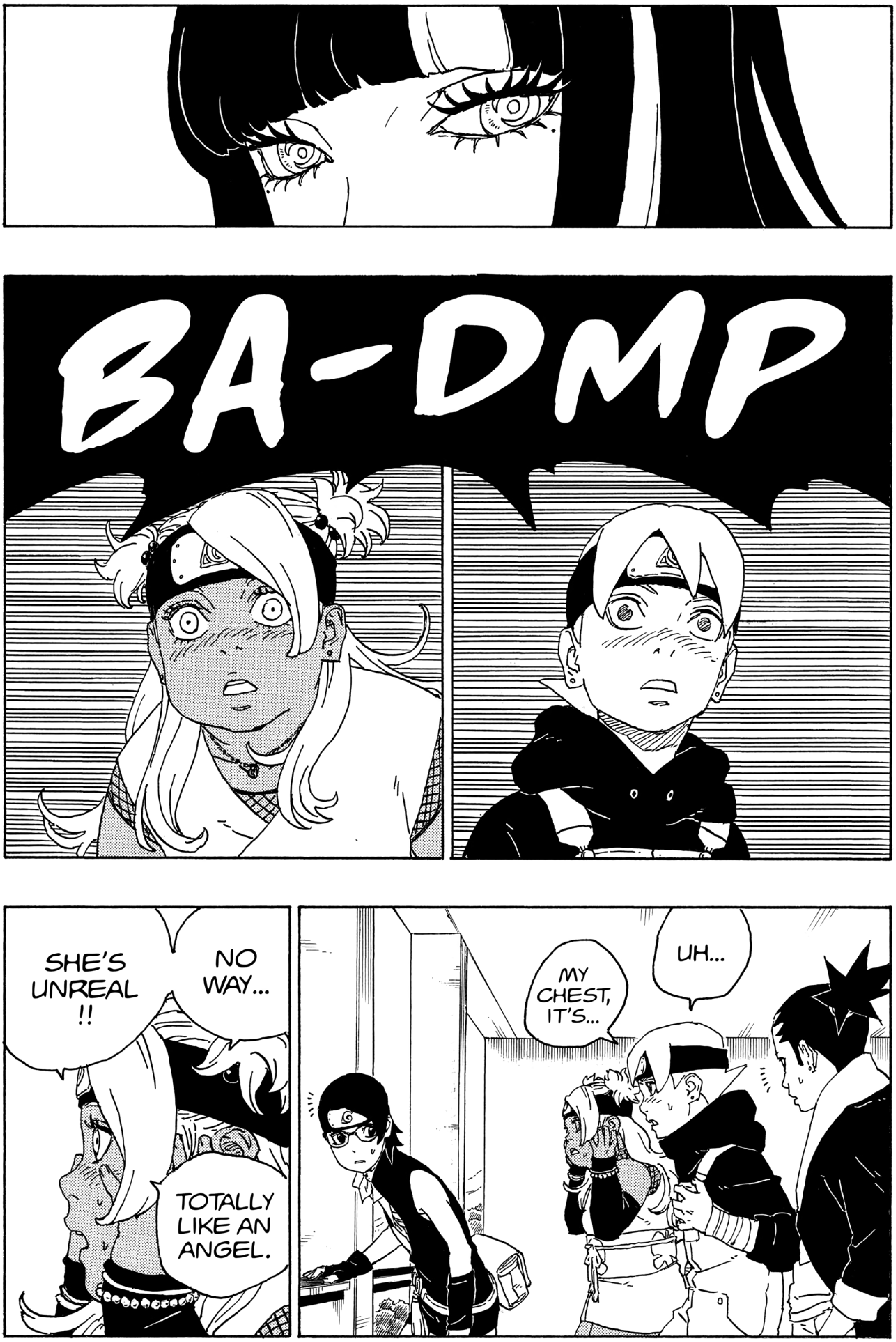

VWOOO
HMM...
OUR TARGET WILL SEE THROUGH EVERYTHING WITH HER SENRIGAN...
...SO HIDING IS POINTLESS, BUT...
...WATCHING HER IN PLAIN SIGHT IS WEIRD TOO.
I'M STRUGGLING WITH HOW TO HANDLE THIS.
MAINTAIN A CONSTANT SCOWL.
SUCH A STANCE WILL BE MEANINGFUL.
MASTER SHIKAMARU JUST WANTS TO APPLY A LITTLE PRESSURE ON EIDA.
EASILY SAID, BUT...
...I HOPE DOING THAT DOESN'T CAUSE TROUBLE.
HONESTLY, I'M WORRIED.

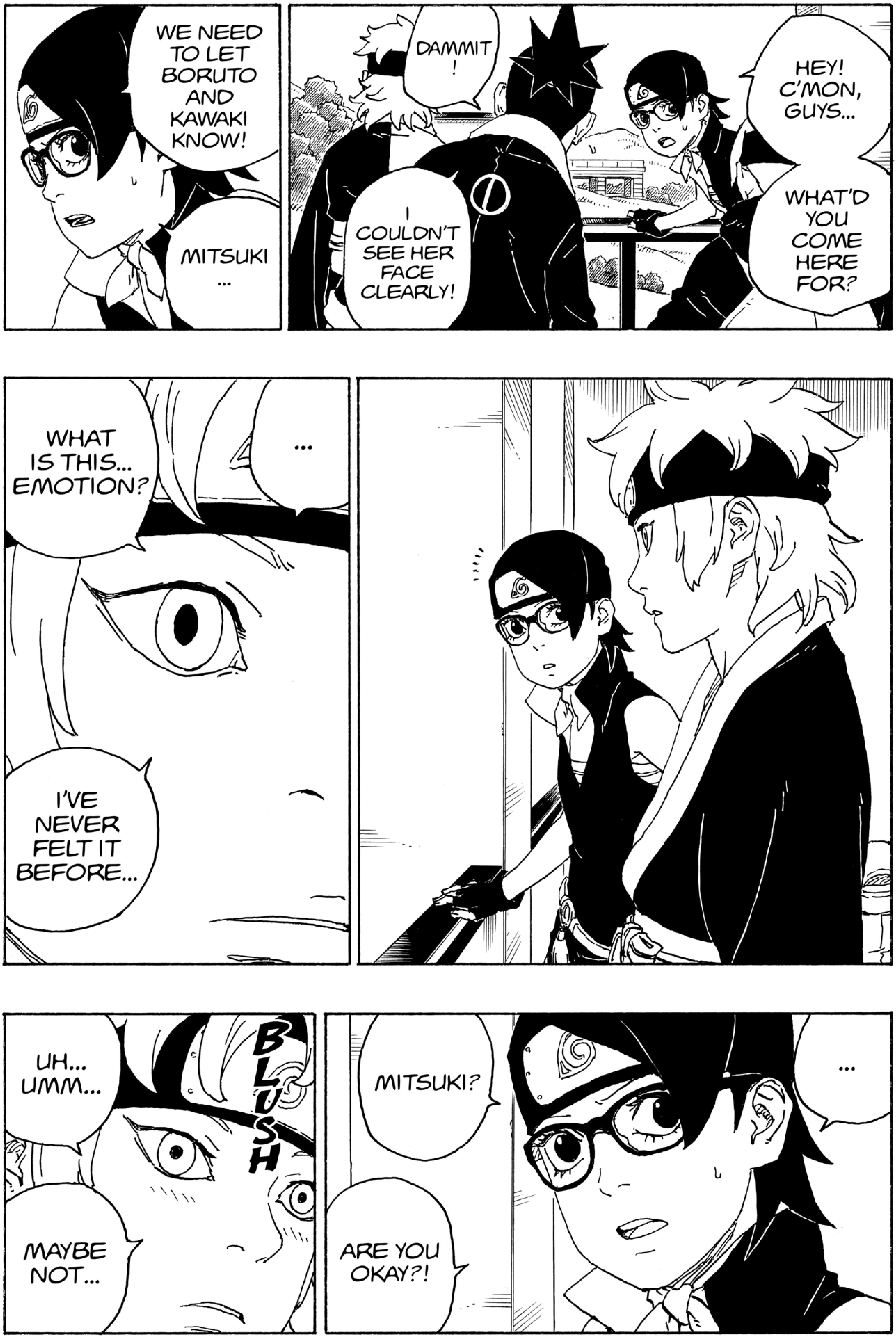

TMP
!
HUH?
YO, OVER-ACHIEVERS!
YOU BETTER NOT BE SLACKING.
HEEEY!
YOU GUYS!
WHAT'RE YOU DOING HERE?!
WE'RE HERE TO CHECK THINGS OUT.
NO ONE CAN STOP OUR CURIOUSITY.
WE HEARD A GORGEOUS WOMAN'S COMING!

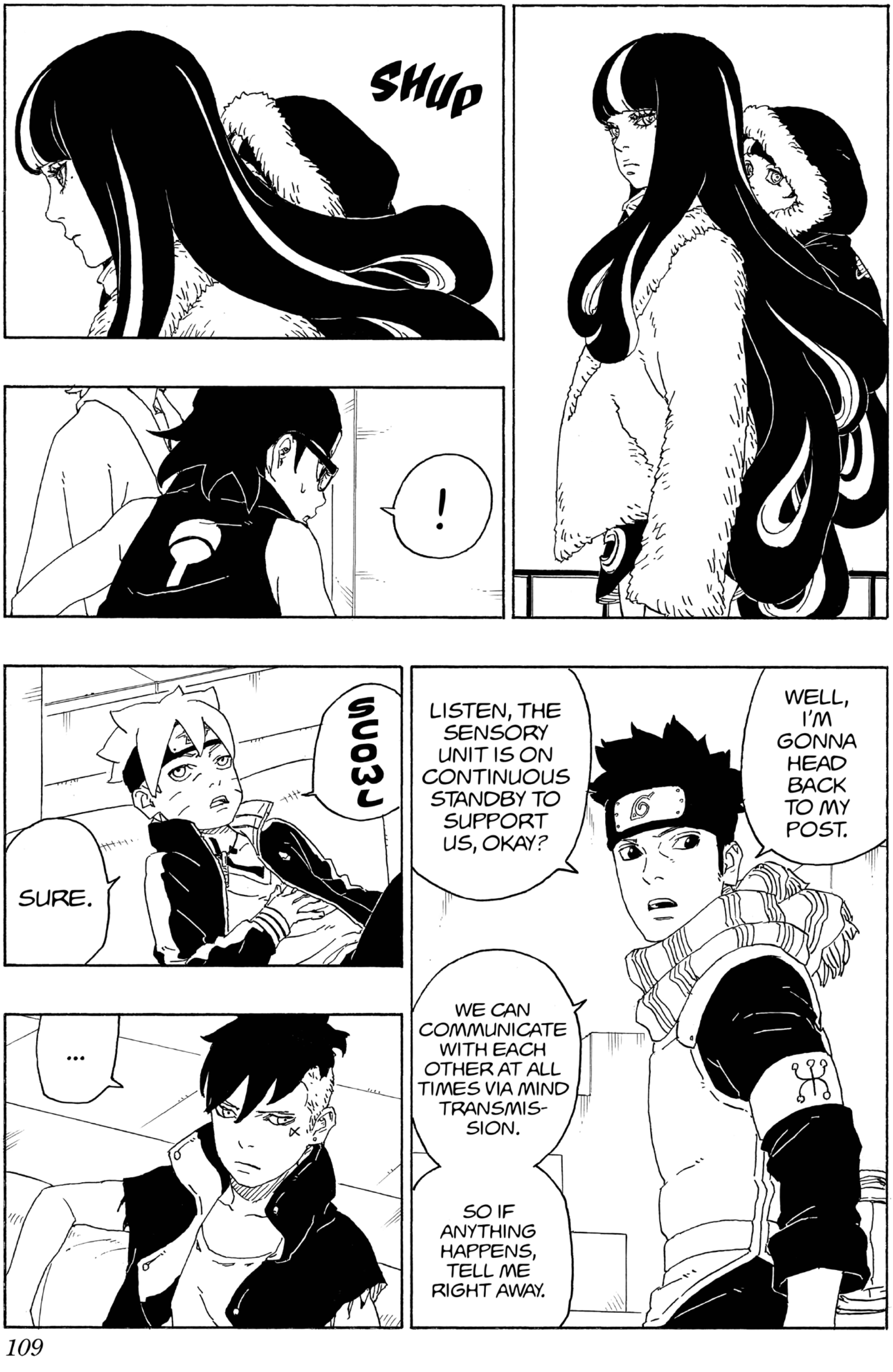

SHE'S AFTER KAWAKI, RIGHT?
WHICH TOTALLY MAKES THAT FOREIGNER MY RIVAL!
SO I CAME TO CHECK HER OUT!
...
I SEE...
ARE YOU SAYING THAT FOR REAL?
EH?
SO WHAT IF I AM, LOSER?
HEY! TAKE IT SOMEWHERE ELSE!
SARADA.
SHE'S HERE.
!
WHAT?!

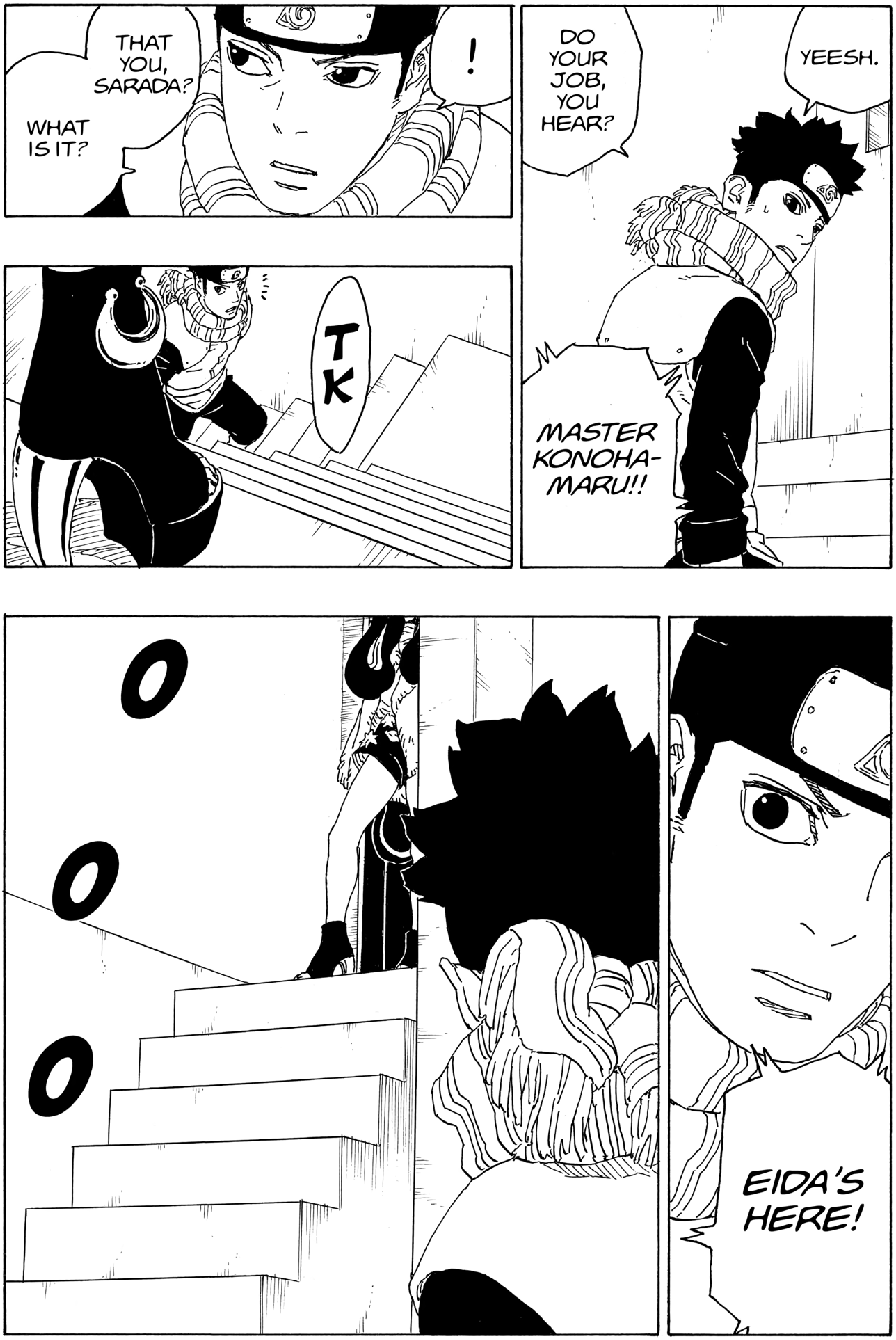

WHOOSH
!!!
SHE FLEW HERE?!

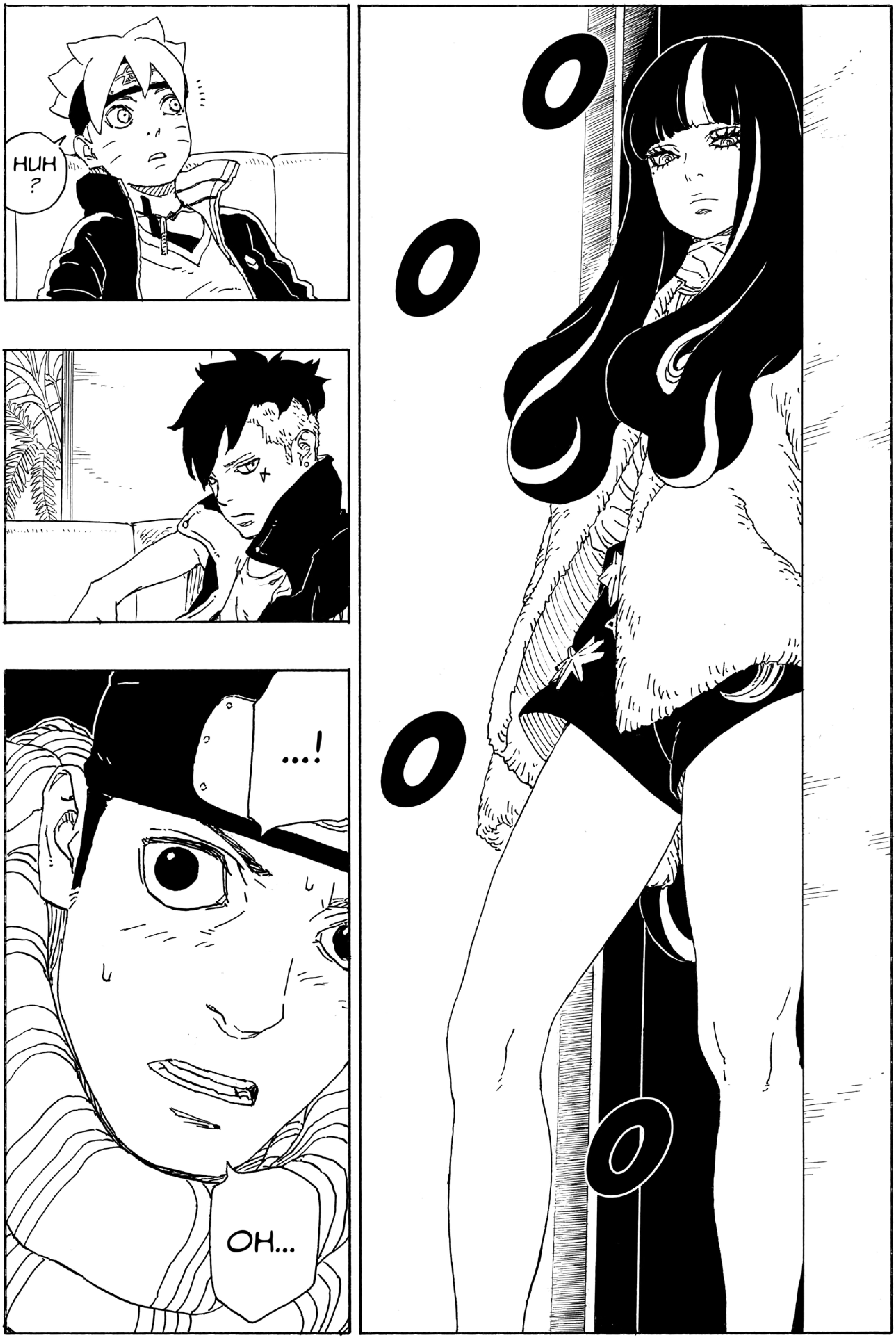

TKK
FSH

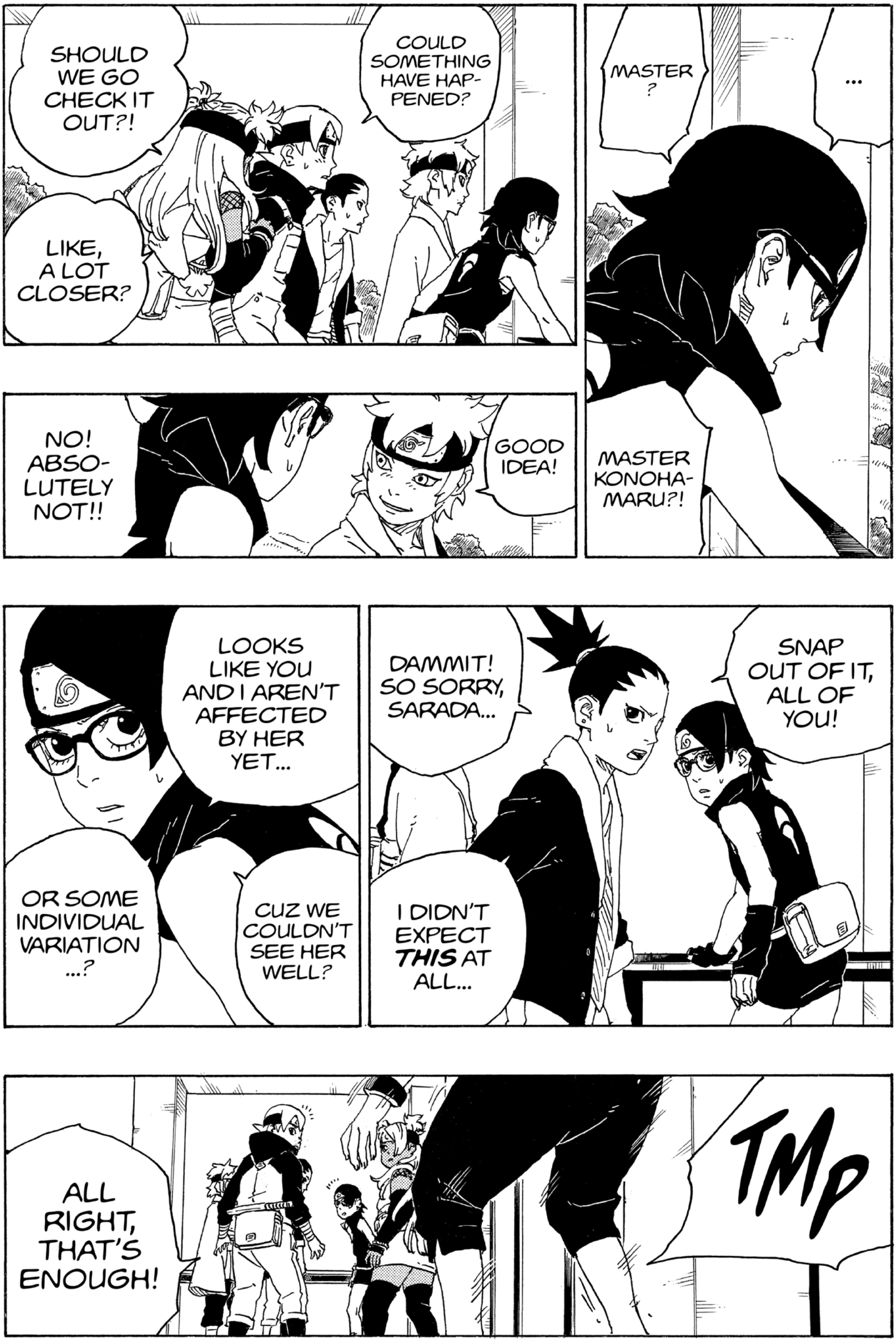

BA-DMP
UH...
MY CHEST, IT'S...
NO WAY...
SHE'S UNREAL !!
TOTALLY LIKE AN ANGEL.

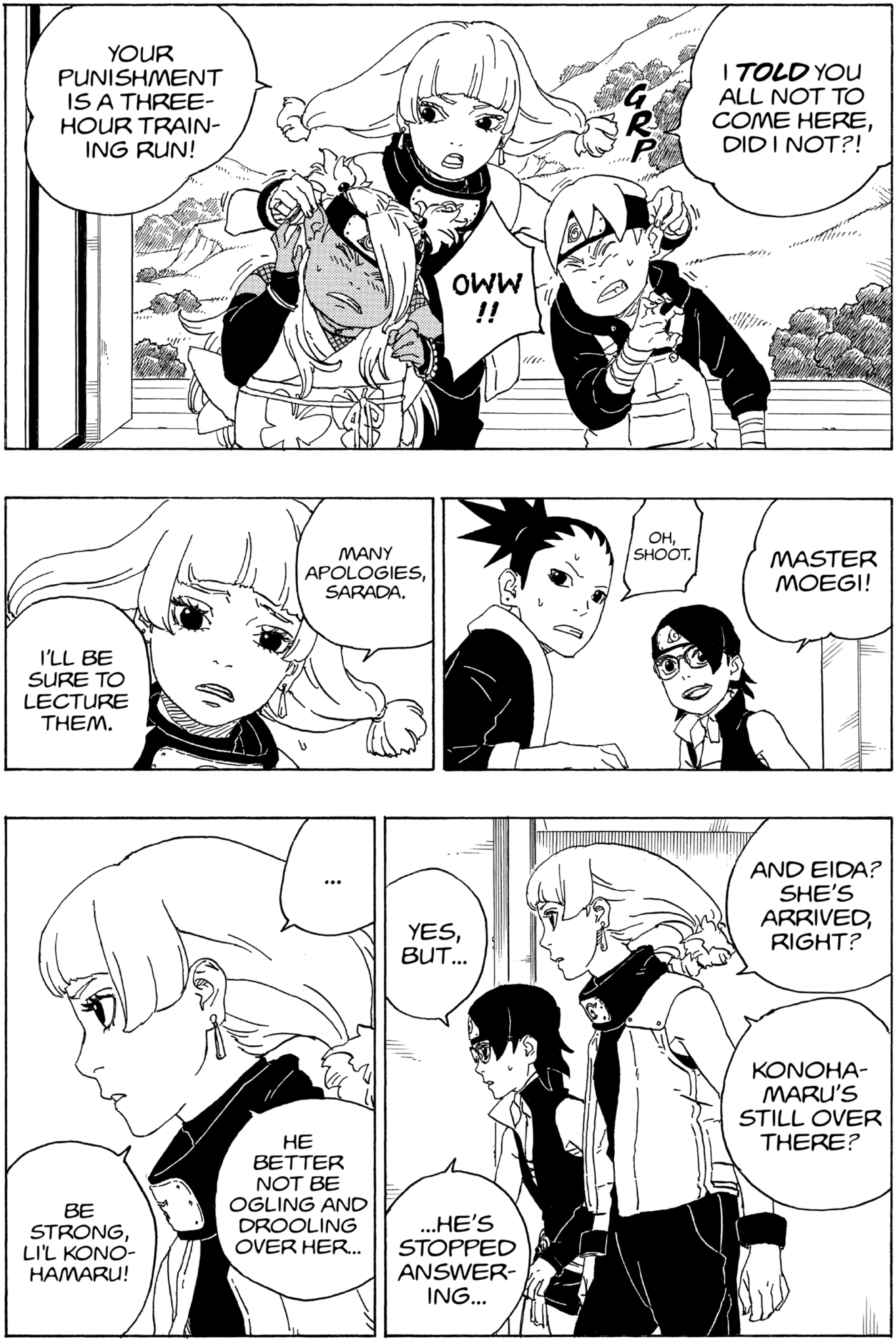

HEY! C'MON, GUYS...
WHAT'D YOU COME HERE FOR?
DAMMIT!
I COULDN'T SEE HER FACE CLEARLY!
WE NEED TO LET BORUTO AND KAWAKI KNOW!
MITSUKI...
...
WHAT IS THIS... EMOTION?
I'VE NEVER FELT IT BEFORE...
...
MITSUKI?
ARE YOU OKAY?!
UH... UMM...
BLUSH
MAYBE NOT...

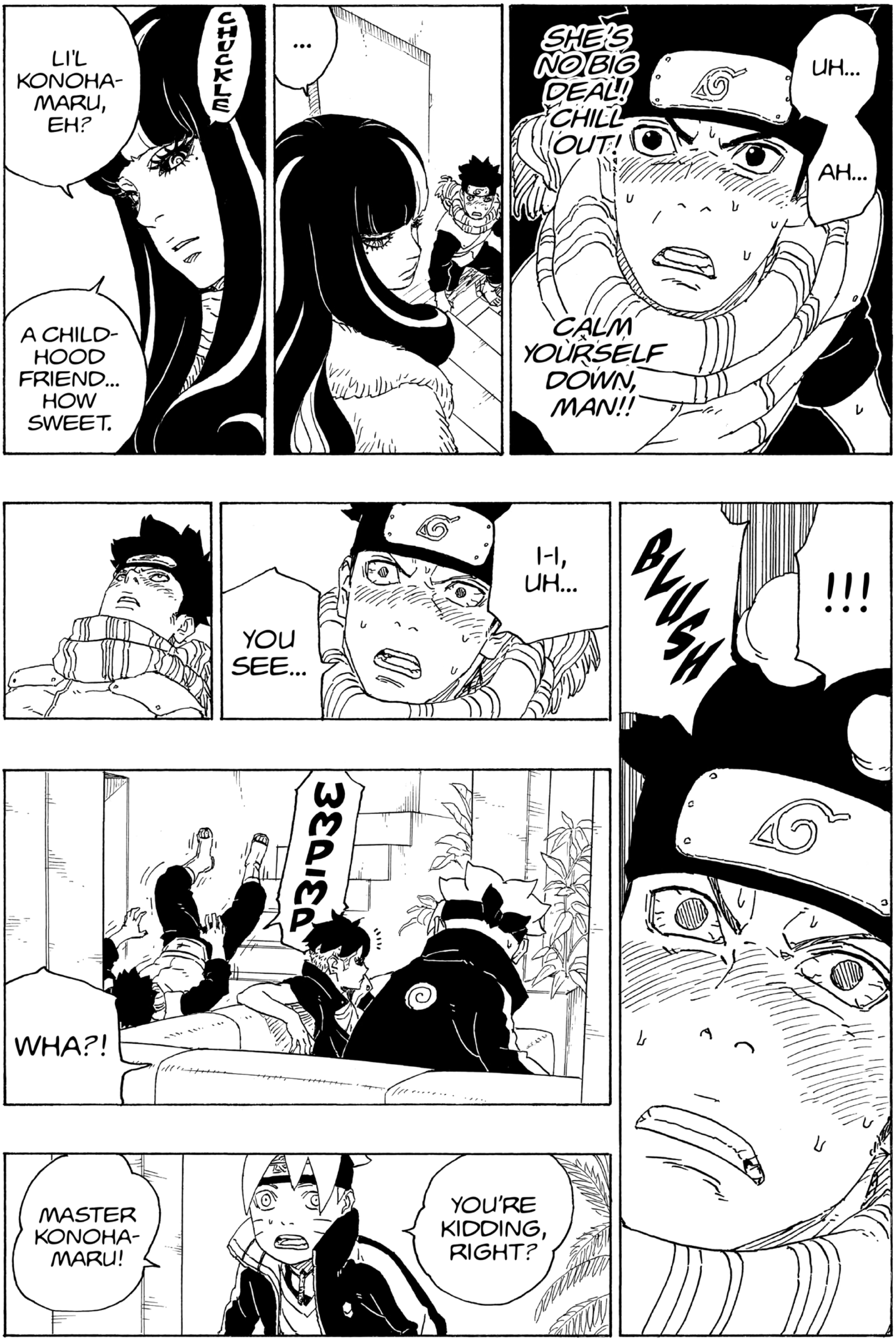

SHUP
!
WELL, I'M GONNA HEAD BACK TO MY POST.
LISTEN, THE SENSORY UNIT IS ON CONTINUOUS STANDBY TO SUPPORT US, OKAY?
WE CAN COMMUNICATE WITH EACH OTHER AT ALL TIMES VIA MIND TRANSMISSION.
SO IF ANYTHING HAPPENS, TELL ME RIGHT AWAY.
SURE.
...

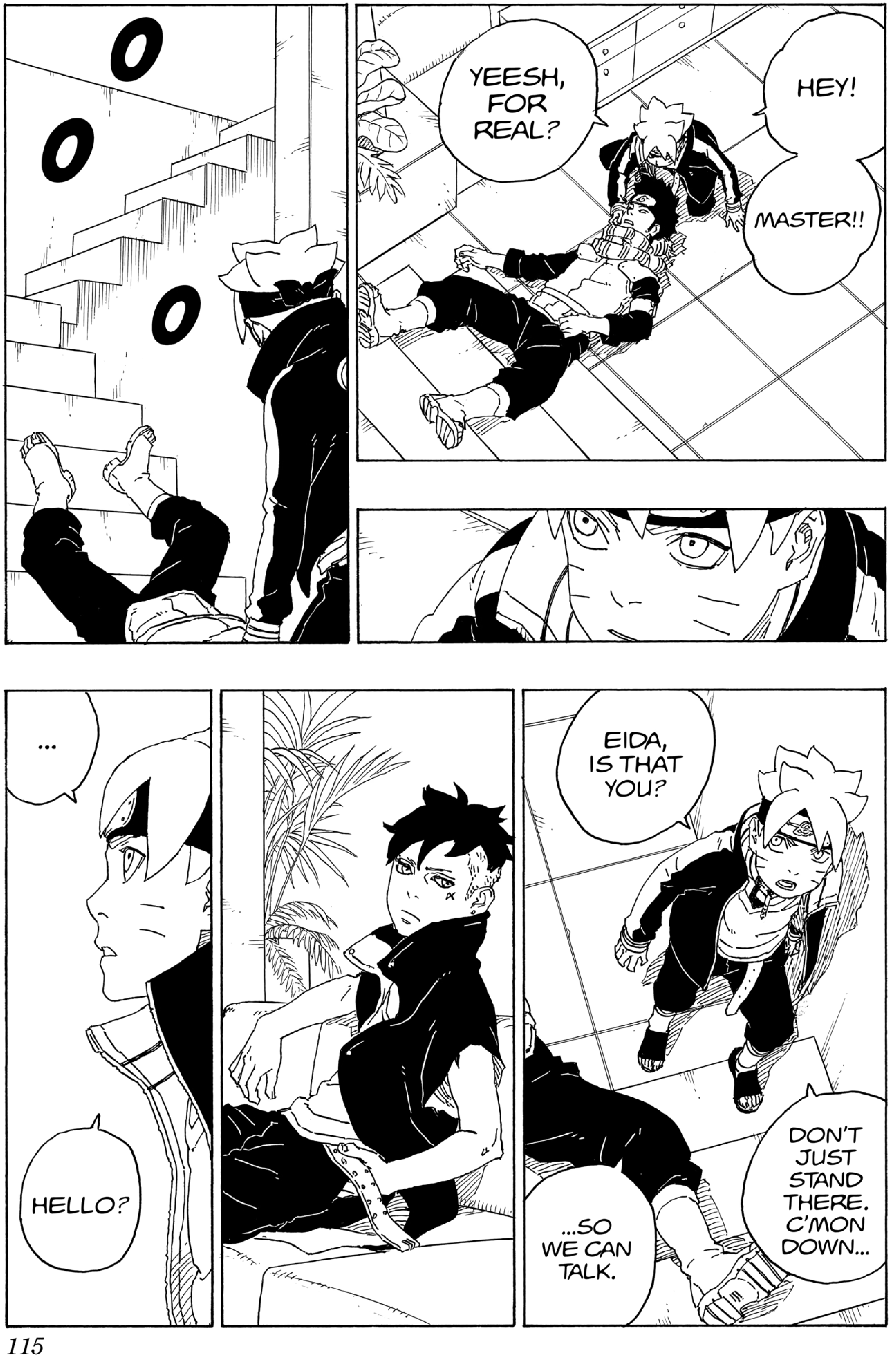

YEESH.
DO YOUR JOB, YOU HEAR?
MASTER KONOHAMARU!!
!
THAT YOU, SARADA?
WHAT IS IT?
TK
EIDA'S HERE!
O
O
O

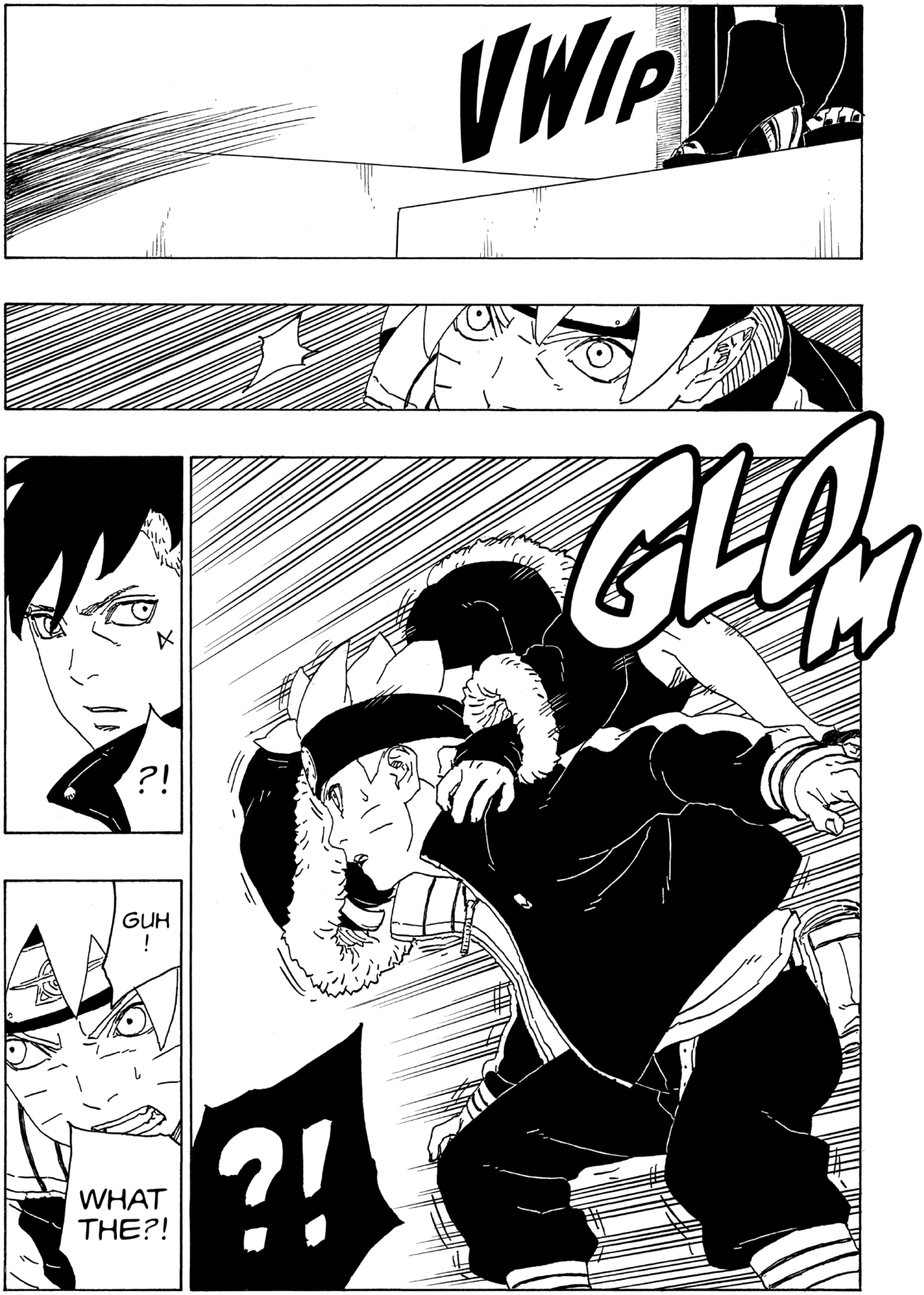

O
O
O
O
HUH?
...!
OH...

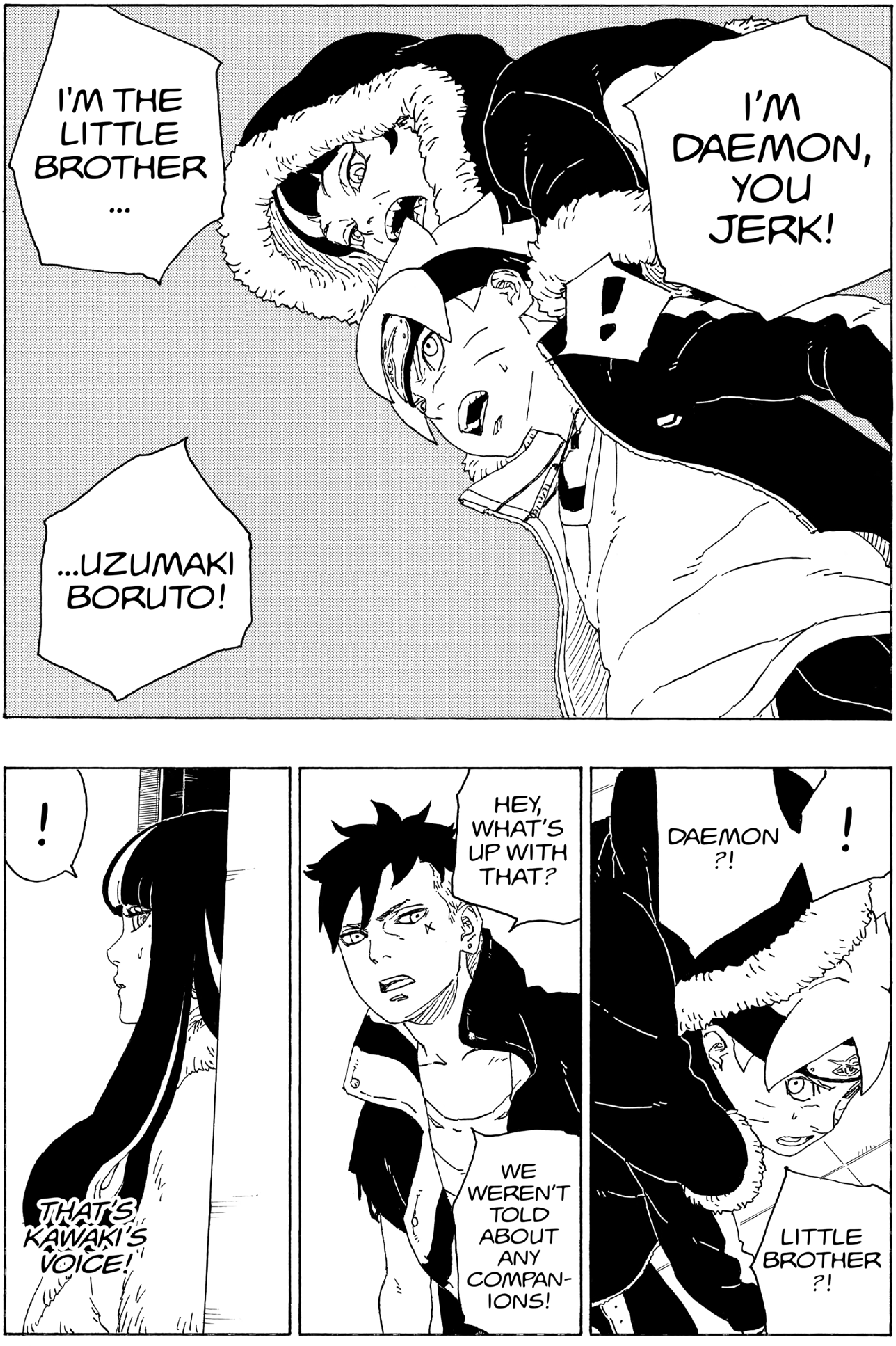

MASTER?
...
MASTER KONOHAMARU?!
COULD SOMETHING HAVE HAPPENED?
SHOULD WE GO CHECK IT OUT?!
LIKE, A LOT CLOSER?
GOOD IDEA!
NO! ABSOLUTELY NOT!!
SNAP OUT OF IT, ALL OF YOU!
DAMMIT! SO SORRY, SARADA...
I DIDN'T EXPECT **THIS** AT ALL...
LOOKS LIKE YOU AND I AREN'T AFFECTED BY HER YET...
CUZ WE COULDN'T SEE HER WELL?
OR SOME INDIVIDUAL VARIATION ...?
TMP
ALL RIGHT, THAT'S ENOUGH!

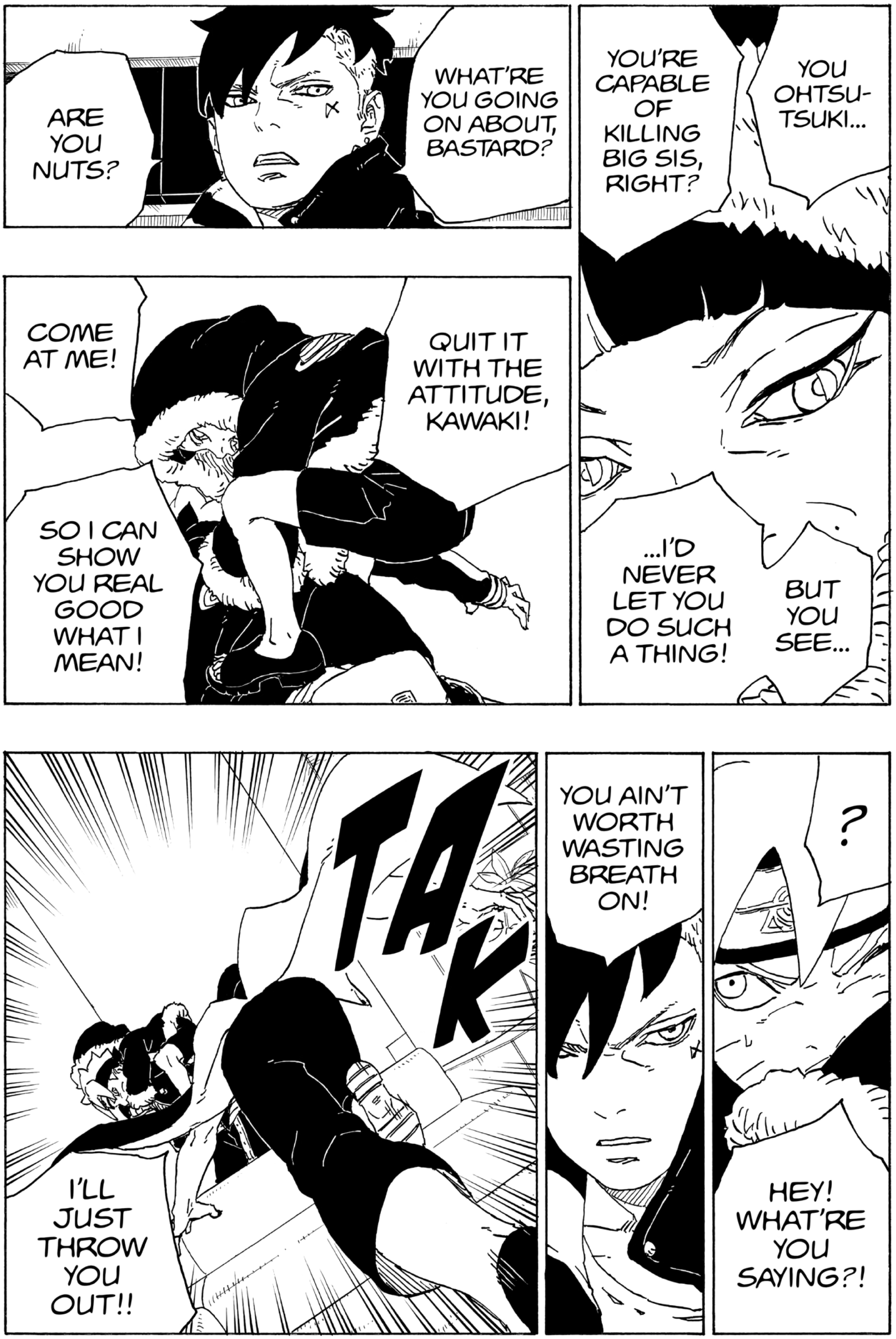

I TOLD YOU ALL NOT TO COME HERE, DID I NOT?!
GRP
OWW !!
YOUR PUNISHMENT IS A THREE-HOUR TRAINING RUN!
MASTER MOEGI!
OH, SHOOT.
MANY APOLOGIES, SARADA.
I'LL BE SURE TO LECTURE THEM.
AND EIDA? SHE'S ARRIVED, RIGHT?
YES, BUT...
KONOHAMARU'S STILL OVER THERE?
...HE'S STOPPED ANSWERING...
...
HE BETTER NOT BE OGLING AND DROOLING OVER HER...
BE STRONG, LI'L KONOHAMARU!

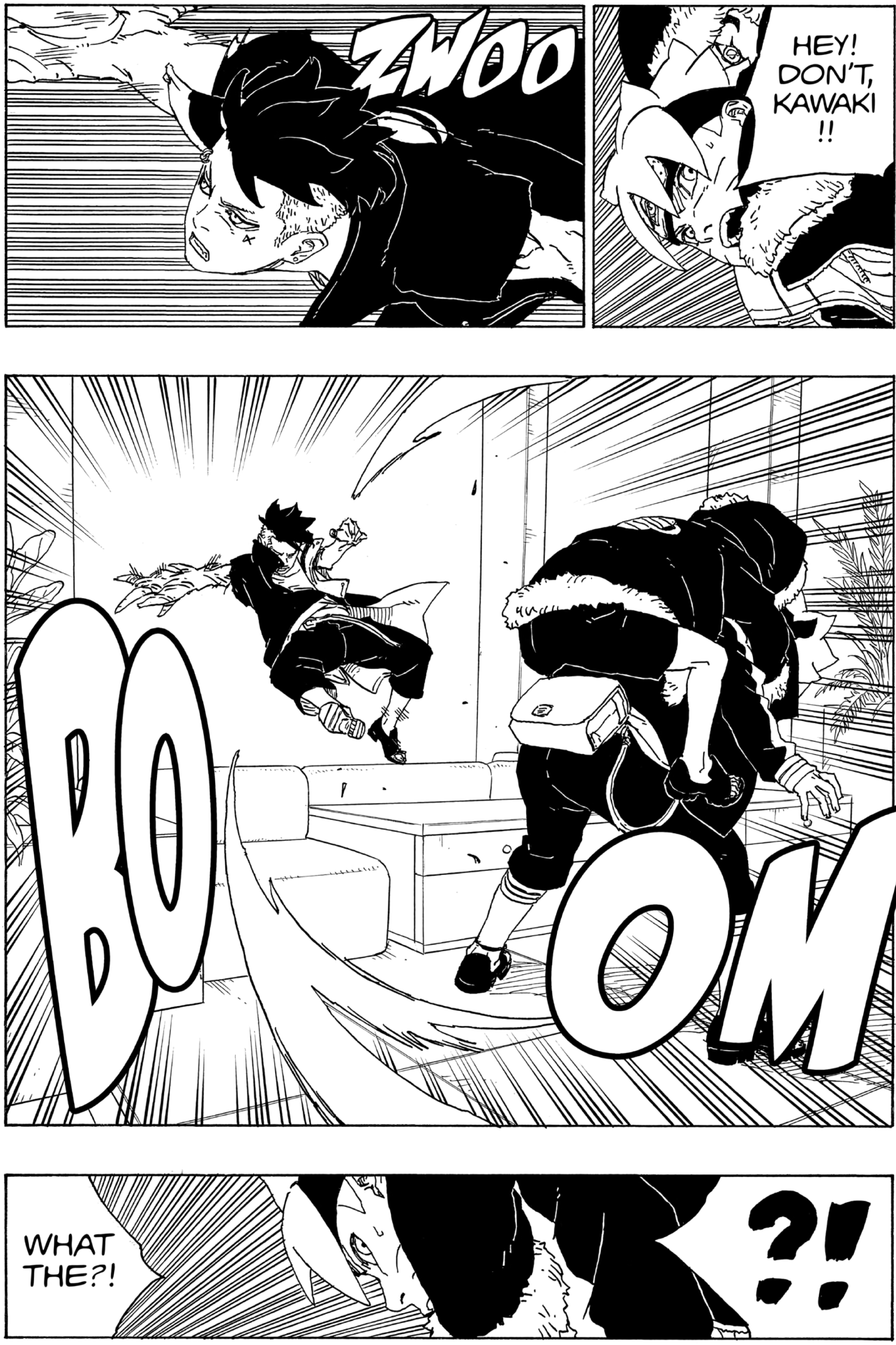

UH...
AH...
SHE'S NO BIG DEAL! CHILL OUT!
CALM YOURSELF DOWN, MAN!!
...
LI'L KONOHAMARU, EH?
CHUCKLE
A CHILDHOOD FRIEND... HOW SWEET.
!!!
BLUSH
I-I, UH...
YOU SEE...
WMP!MP
WHA?!
YOU'RE KIDDING, RIGHT?
MASTER KONOHAMARU!

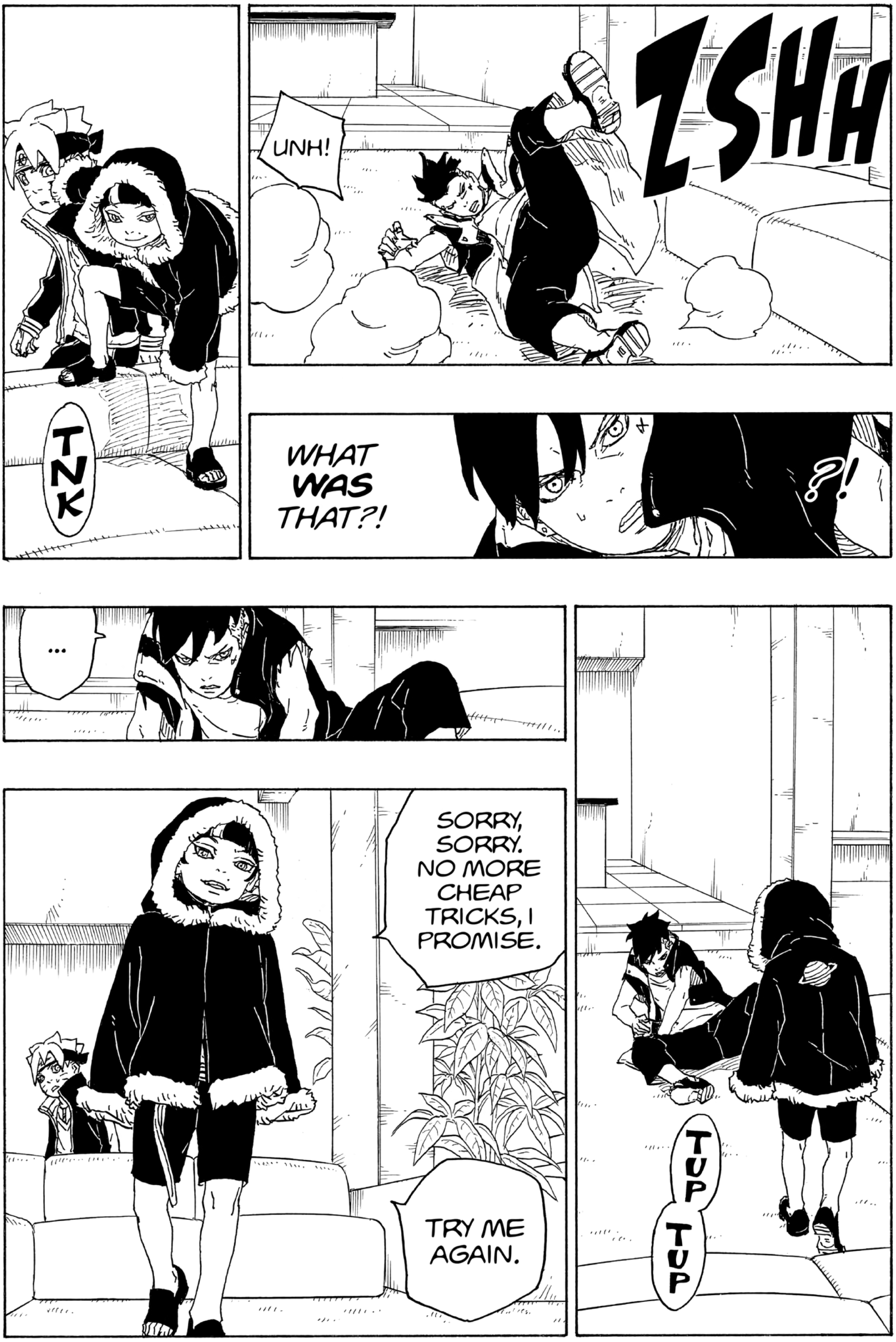

HEY!
MASTER!!
YEESH, FOR REAL?
O
O
O
EIDA, IS THAT YOU?
DON'T JUST STAND THERE. C'MON DOWN...
...SO WE CAN TALK.
...
HELLO?

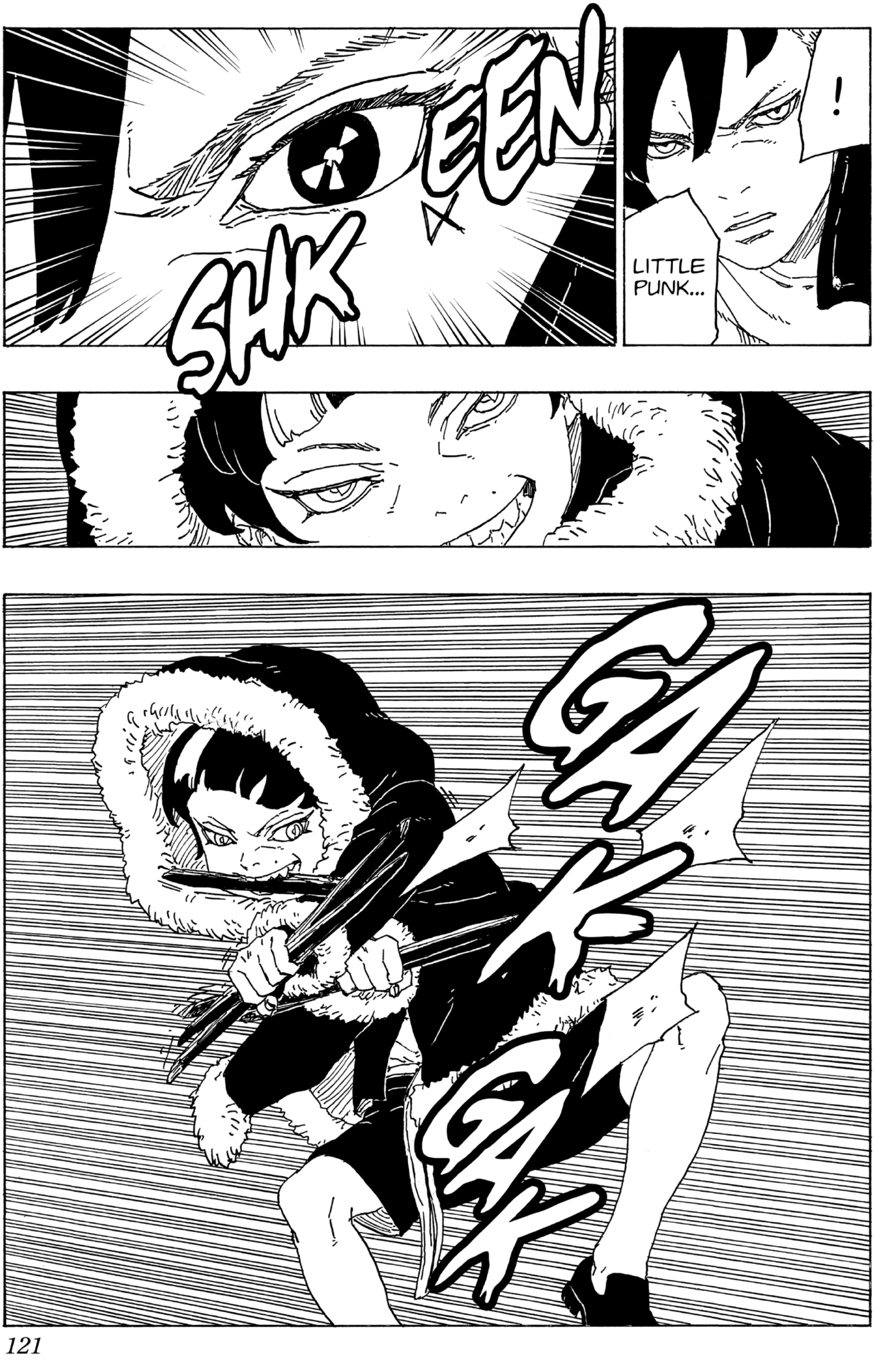

VWIP
GLOM
?!
?!
GUH!
WHAT THE?!

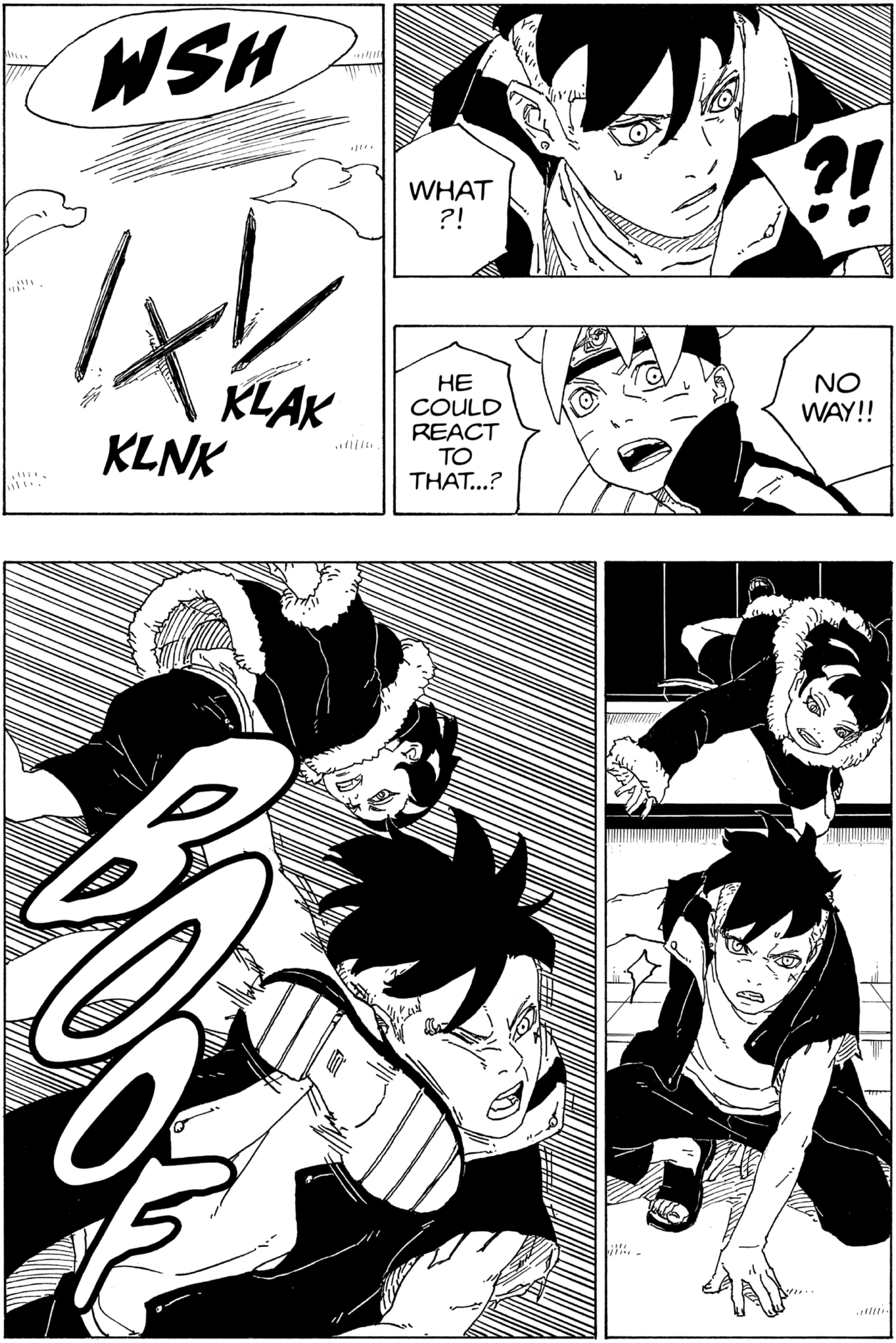

I'M DAEMON, YOU JERK!
!
I'M THE LITTLE BROTHER ...
...UZUMAKI BORUTO!
!
DAEMON ?!
LITTLE BROTHER ?!
HEY, WHAT'S UP WITH THAT?
WE WEREN'T TOLD ABOUT ANY COMPANIONS!
!
THAT'S KAWAKI'S VOICE!

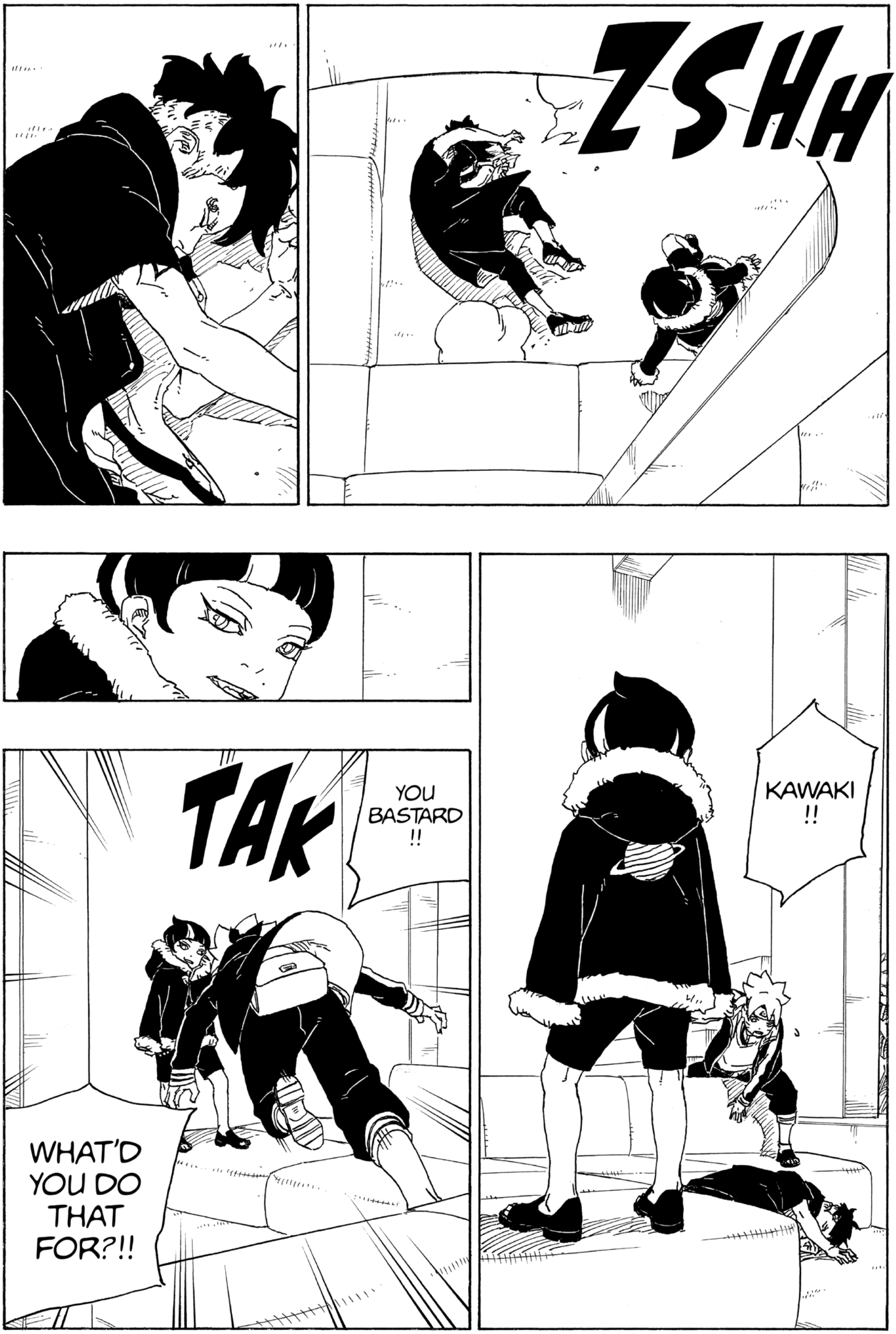

YOU OHTSUTSUKI...
YOU'RE CAPABLE OF KILLING BIG SIS, RIGHT?
BUT YOU SEE...
...I'D NEVER LET YOU DO SUCH A THING!
WHAT'RE YOU GOING ON ABOUT, BASTARD?
ARE YOU NUTS?
QUIT IT WITH THE ATTITUDE, KAWAKI!
COME AT ME!
SO I CAN SHOW YOU REAL GOOD WHAT I MEAN!
?
HEY! WHAT'RE YOU SAYING?!
YOU AIN'T WORTH WASTING BREATH ON!
TAK
I'LL JUST THROW YOU OUT!!

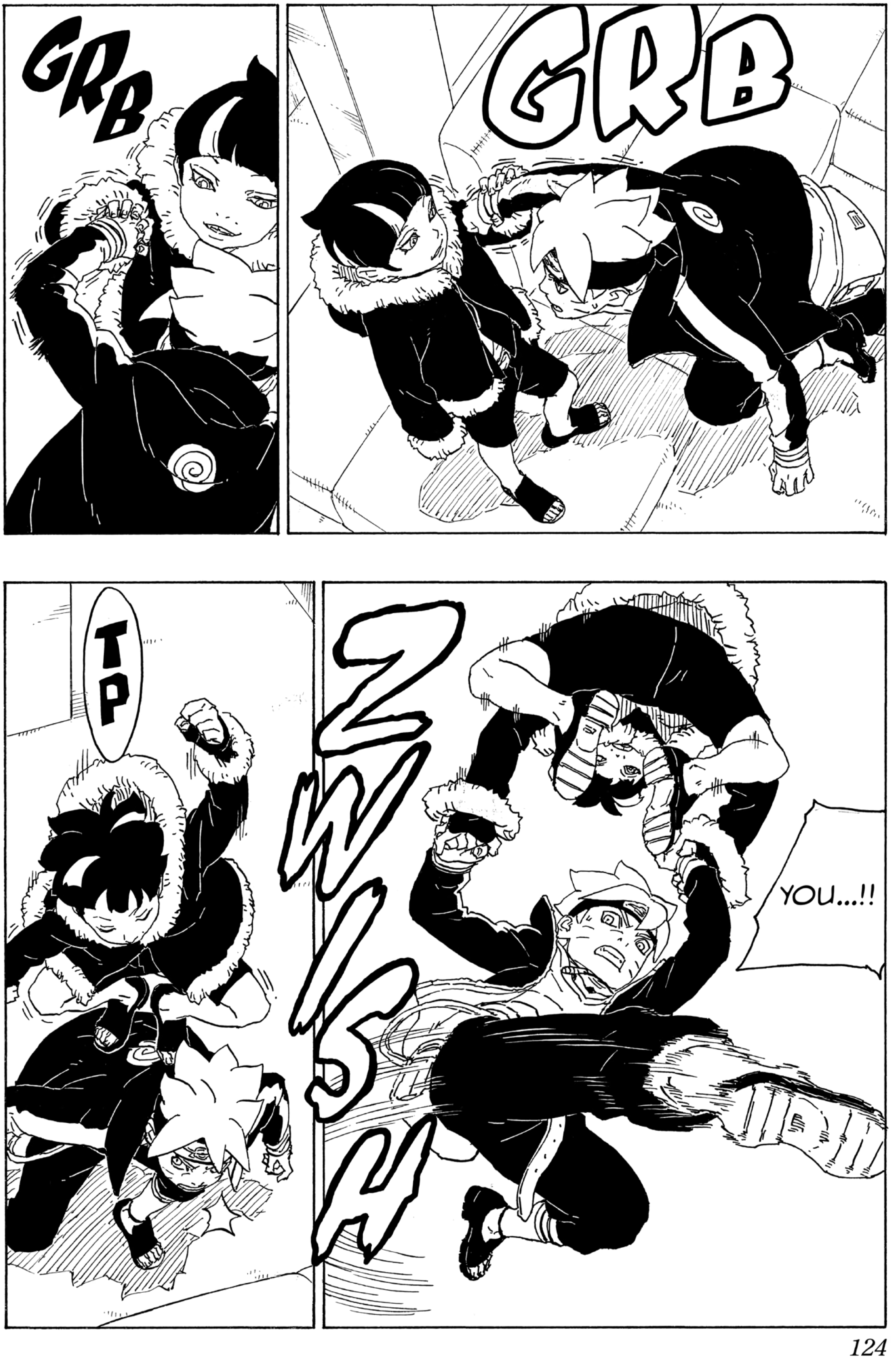

HEY! DON'T, KAWAKI!!
ZWOO
BOOM
?!
WHAT THE?!

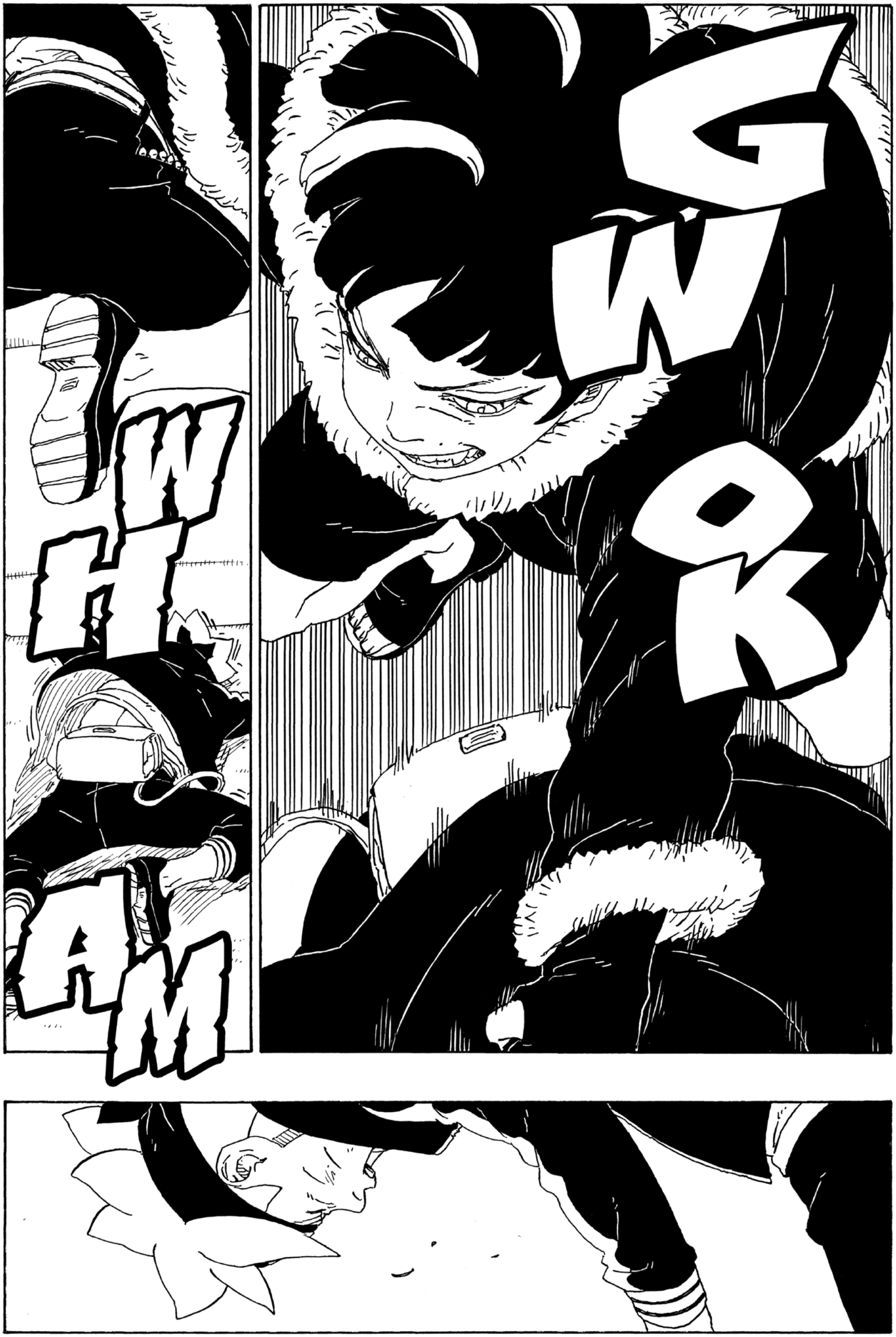

TNK
UNH!
ZSHH
WHAT WAS THAT?!
?!
...
SORRY, SORRY. NO MORE CHEAP TRICKS, I PROMISE.
TRY ME AGAIN.
TUP TUP

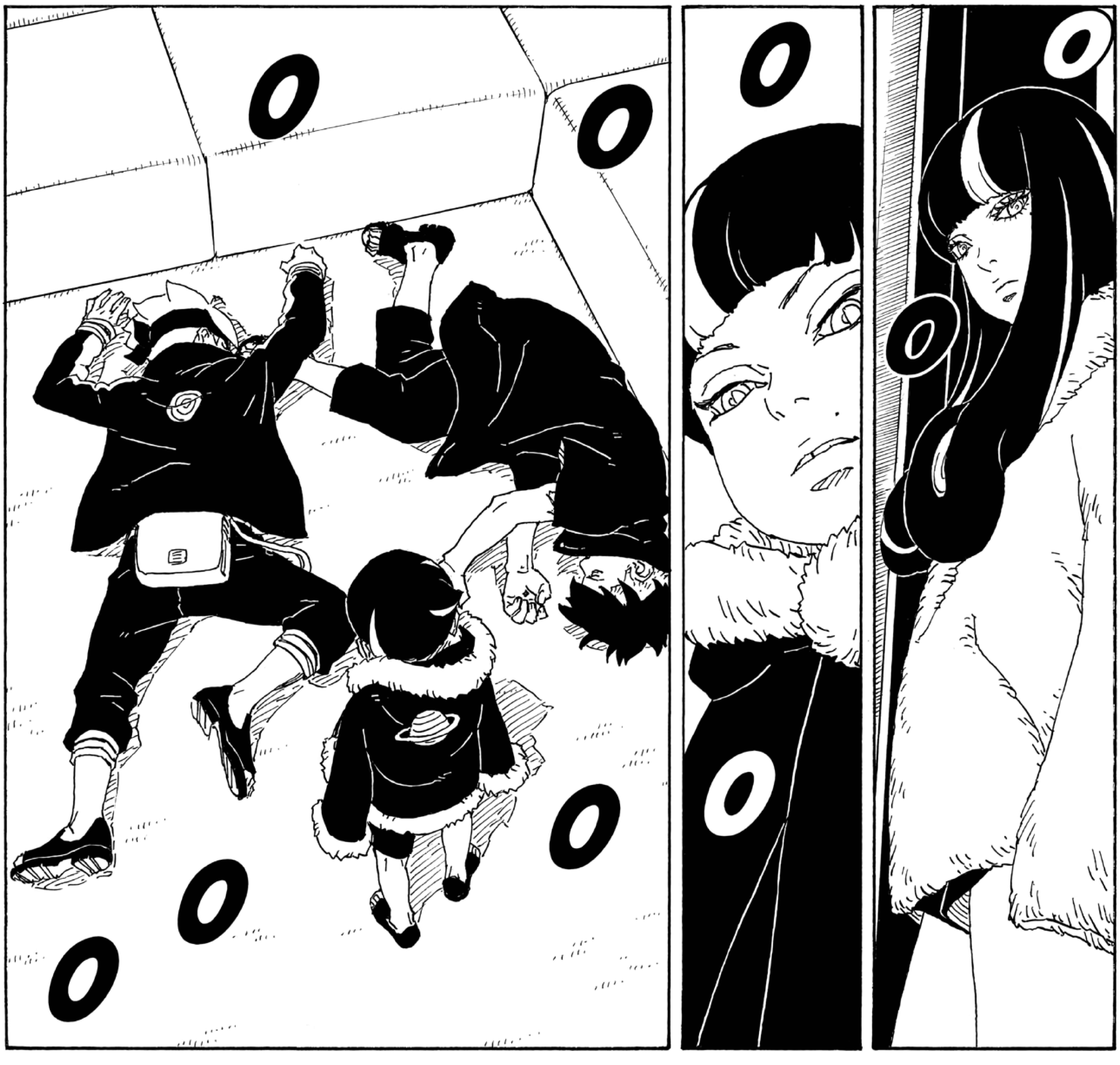

!
LITTLE PUNK...
SHKEEN
GAK GAK

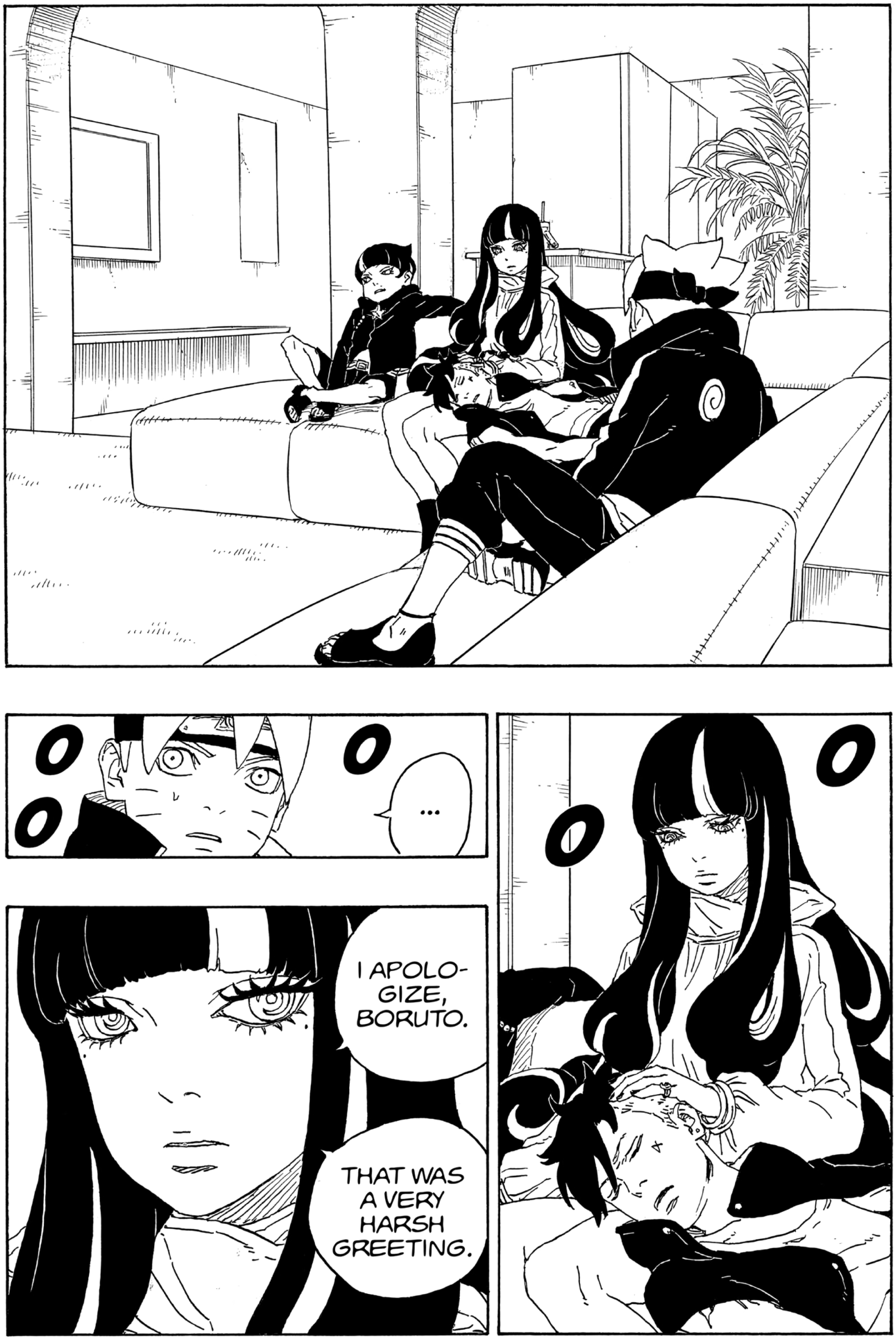

WHAT ?!
?!
NO WAY!!
HE COULD REACT TO THAT...?
WSH
KLAK
KLNK
BOOF

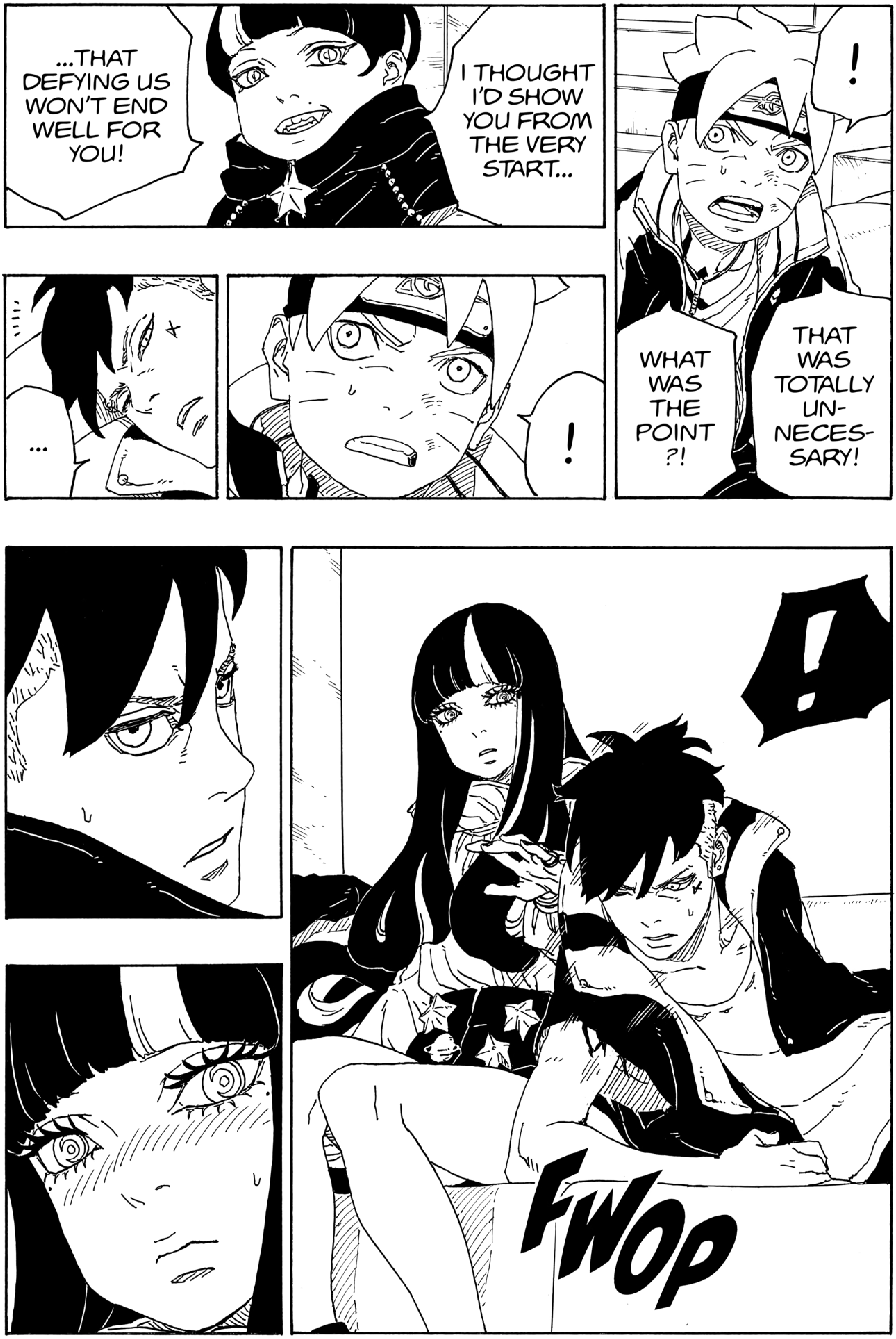

ZSHH
KAWAKI !!
TAK
YOU BASTARD !!
WHAT'D YOU DO THAT FOR?!!

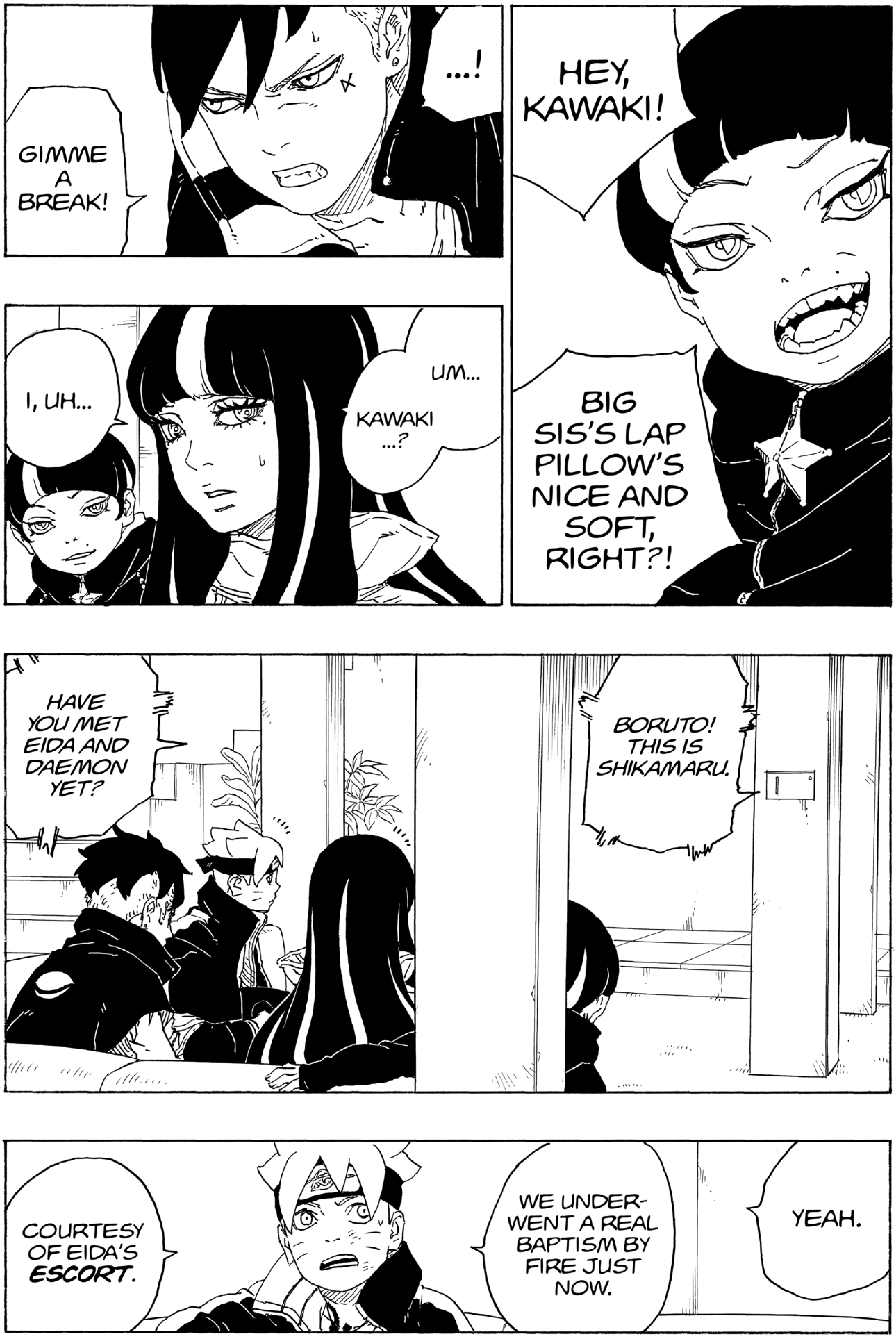

GRB
GRB
YOU...!!
ZWISH
TP

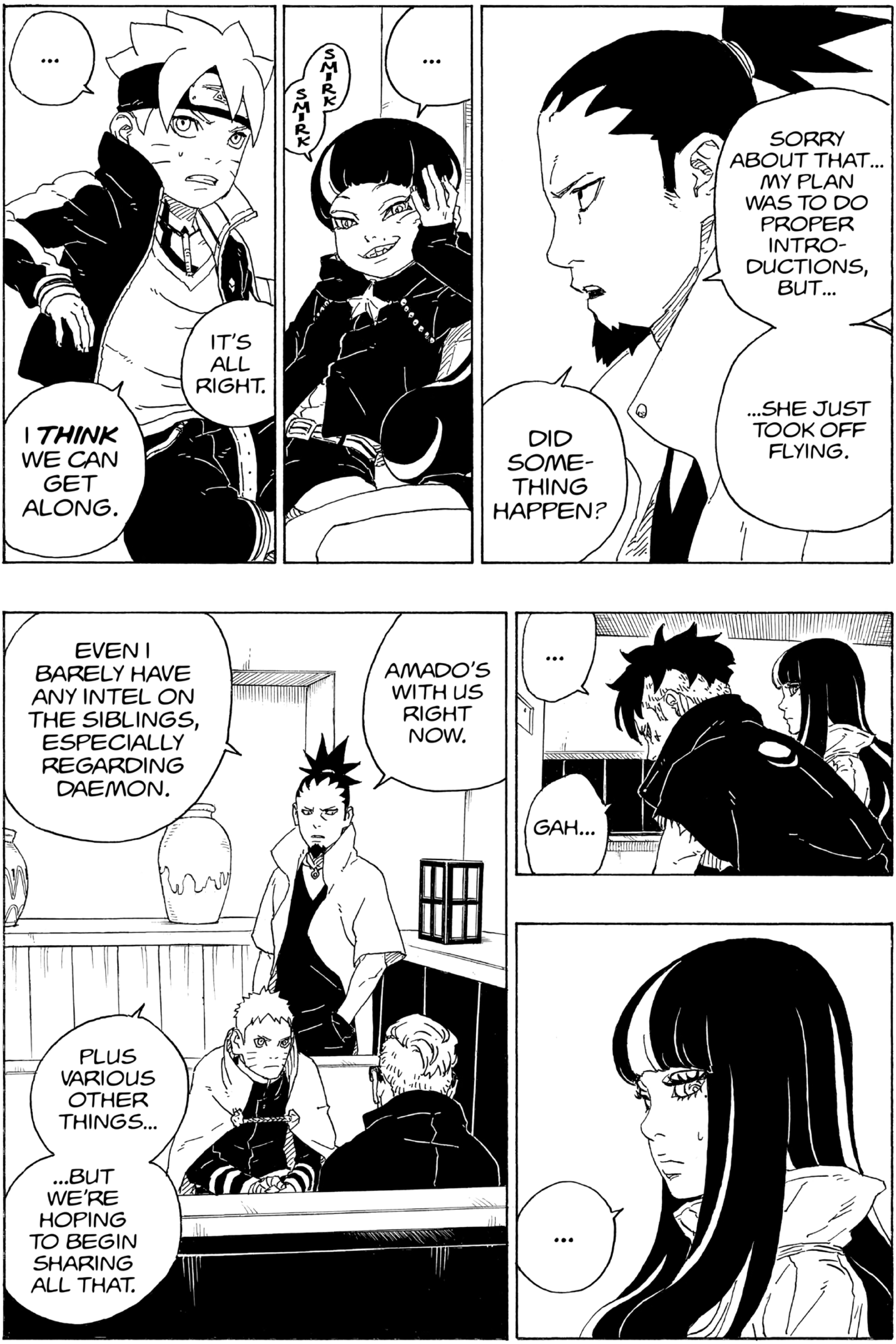

GWOK
WHAM

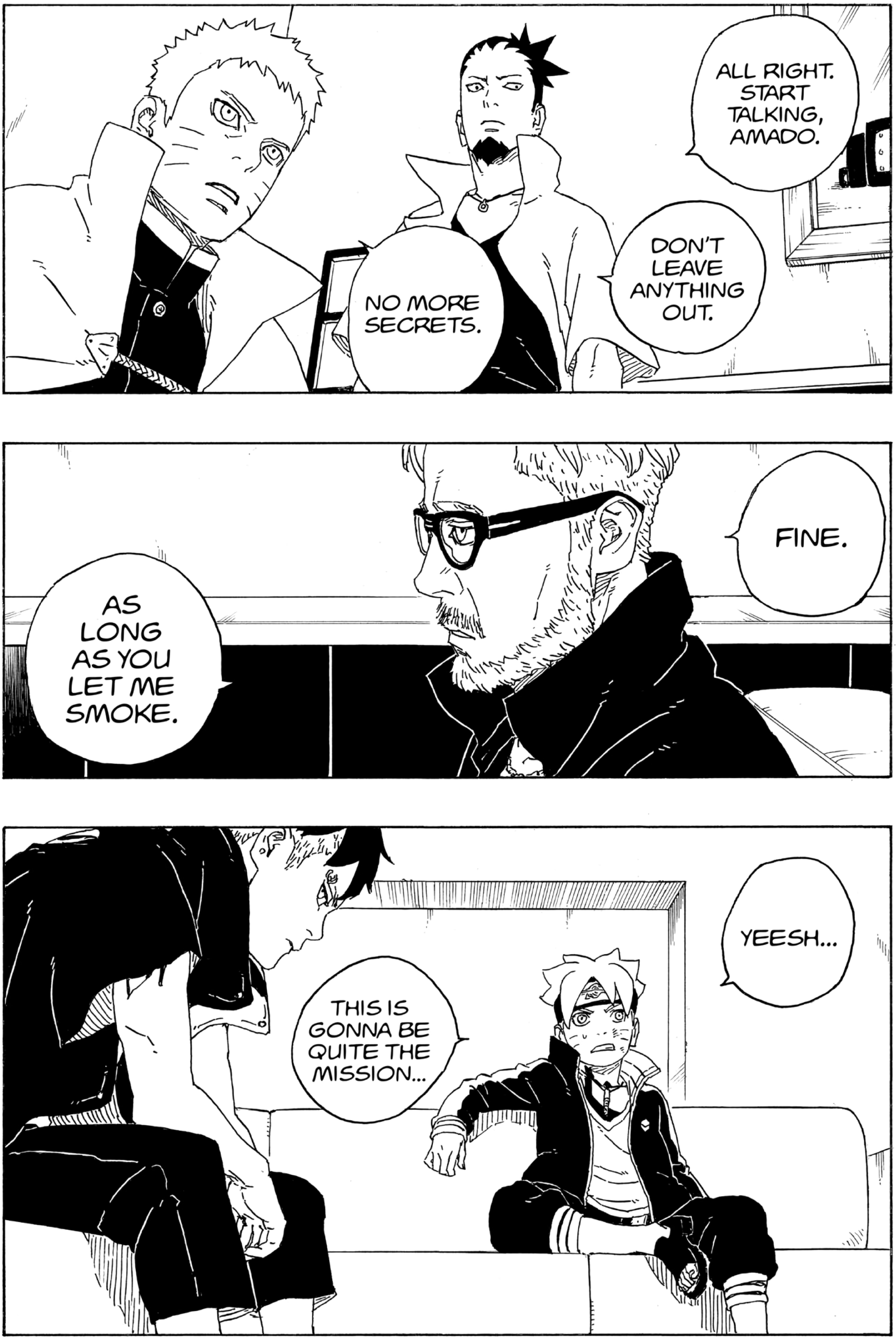

O O
O O
O O O O O
VWOOOO
...
MM...?
OH!
FWOP


...
I APOLOGIZE, BORUTO.
THAT WAS A VERY HARSH GREETING.

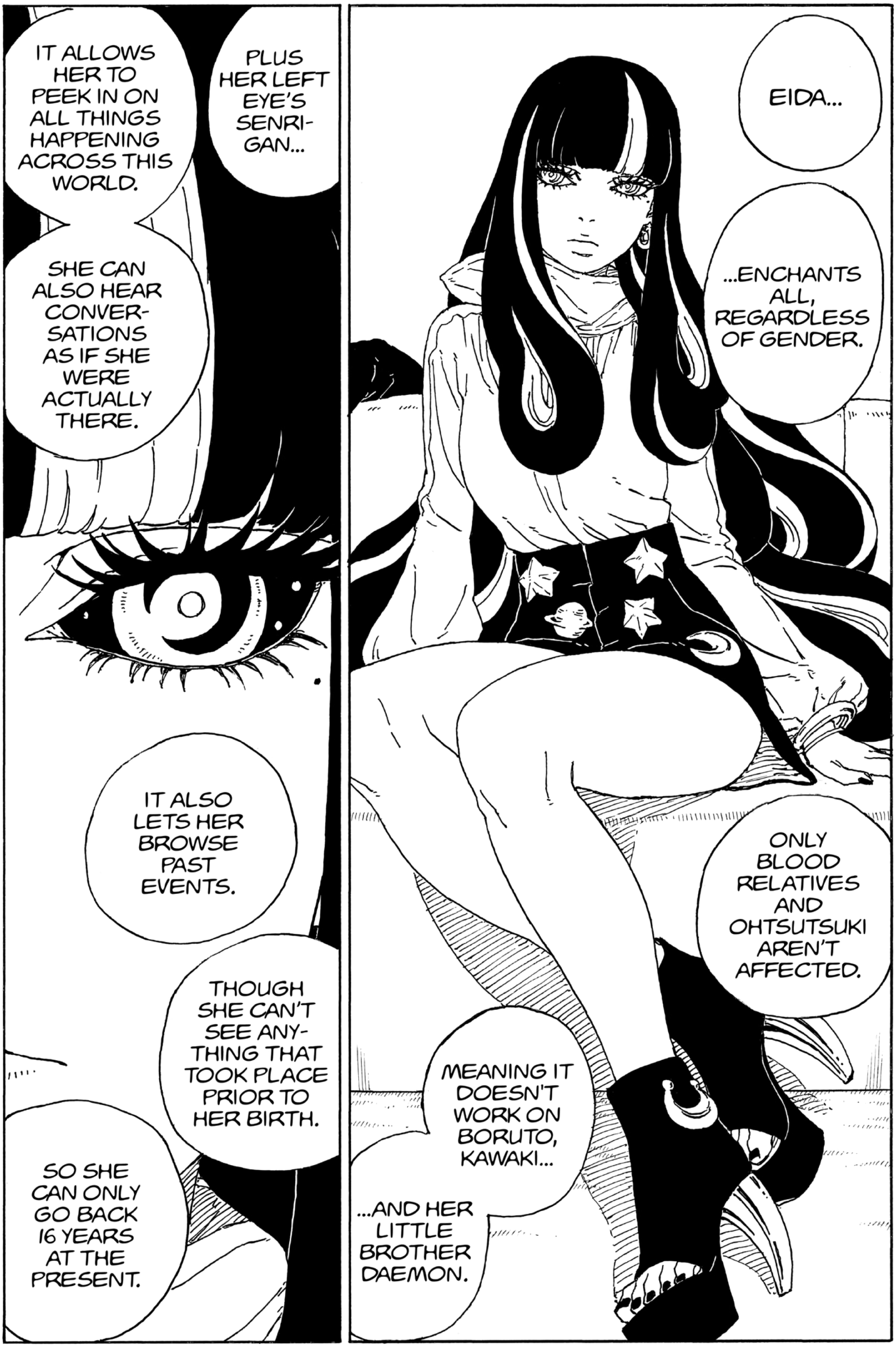

I THOUGHT I'D SHOW YOU FROM THE VERY START...
...THAT DEFYING US WON'T END WELL FOR YOU!
!
...
!
WHAT WAS THE POINT?!
THAT WAS TOTALLY UNNECESSARY!
!
FWOP

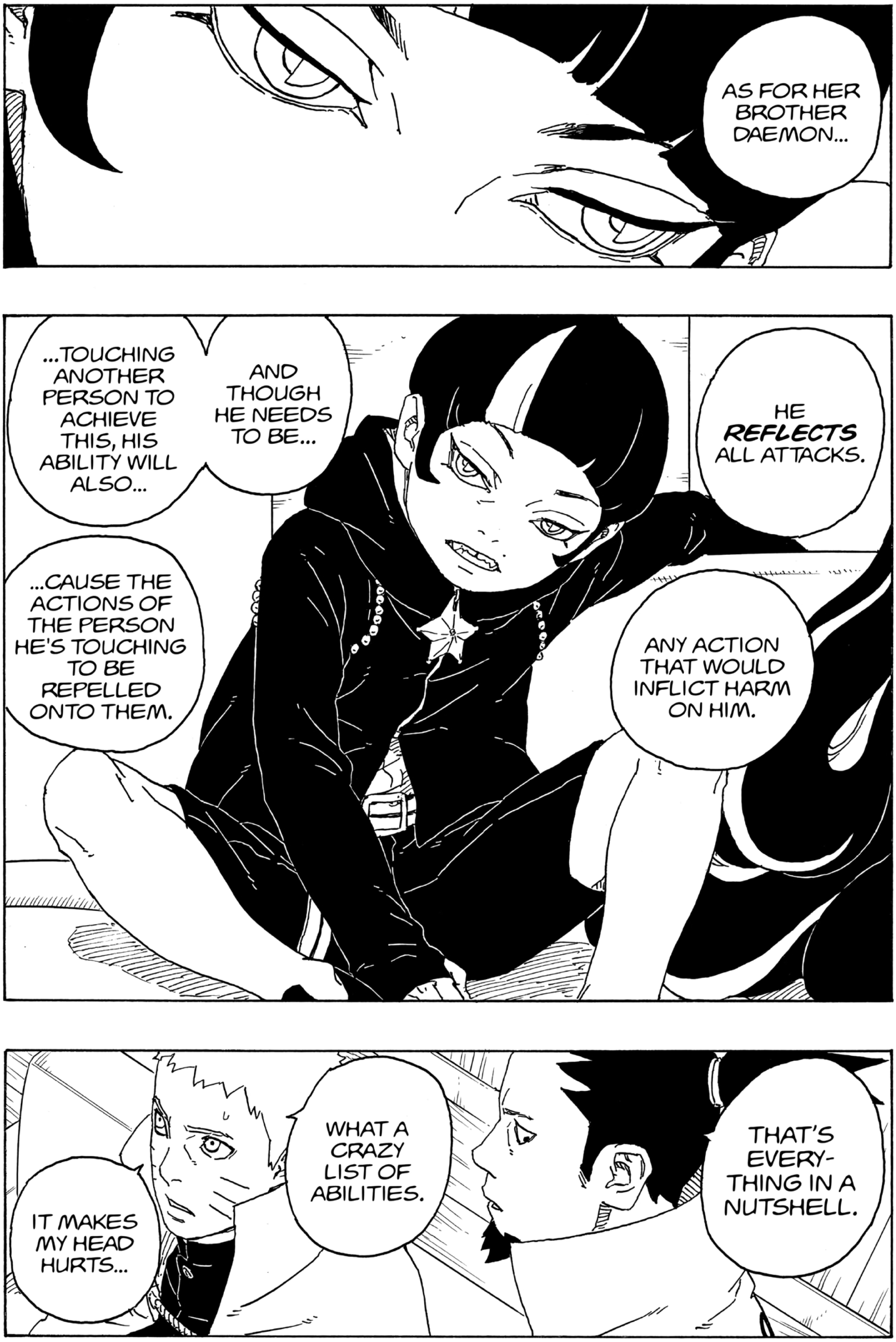

HEY, KAWAKI!
BIG SIS'S LAP PILLOW'S NICE AND SOFT, RIGHT?!
...!
GIMME A BREAK!
UM... KAWAKI ...?
I, UH...
BORUTO! THIS IS SHIKAMARU.
HAVE YOU MET EIDA AND DAEMON YET?
YEAH.
WE UNDERWENT A REAL BAPTISM BY FIRE JUST NOW.
COURTESY OF EIDA'S ESCORT.

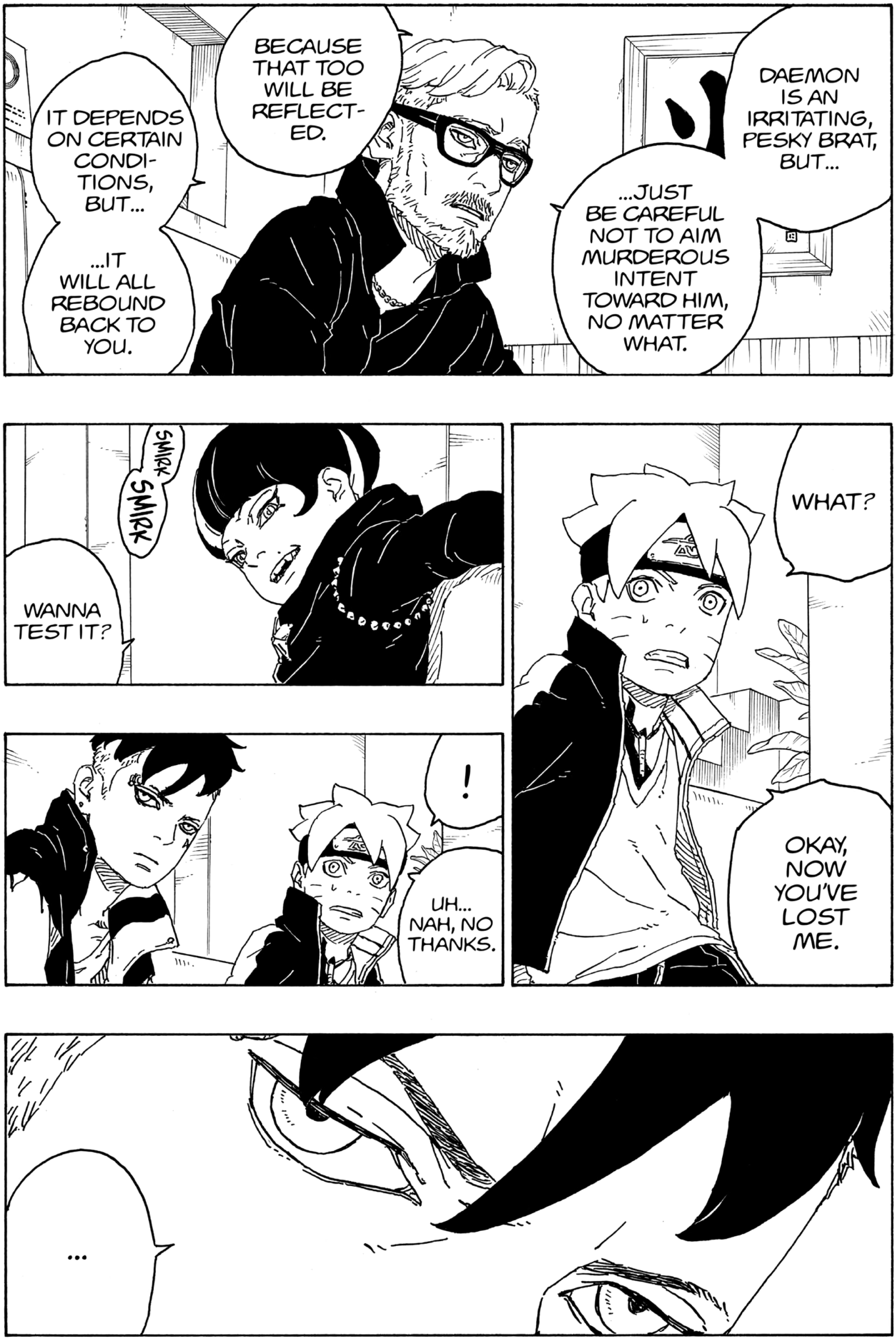

SORRY ABOUT THAT... MY PLAN WAS TO DO PROPER INTRODUCTIONS, BUT...
...SHE JUST TOOK OFF FLYING.
DID SOMETHING HAPPEN?
...
SMIRK SMIRK
IT'S ALL RIGHT.
...
I *THINK* WE CAN GET ALONG.
...
GAH...
...
AMADO'S WITH US RIGHT NOW.
EVEN I BARELY HAVE ANY INTEL ON THE SIBLINGS, ESPECIALLY REGARDING DAEMON.
PLUS VARIOUS OTHER THINGS...
...BUT WE'RE HOPING TO BEGIN SHARING ALL THAT.

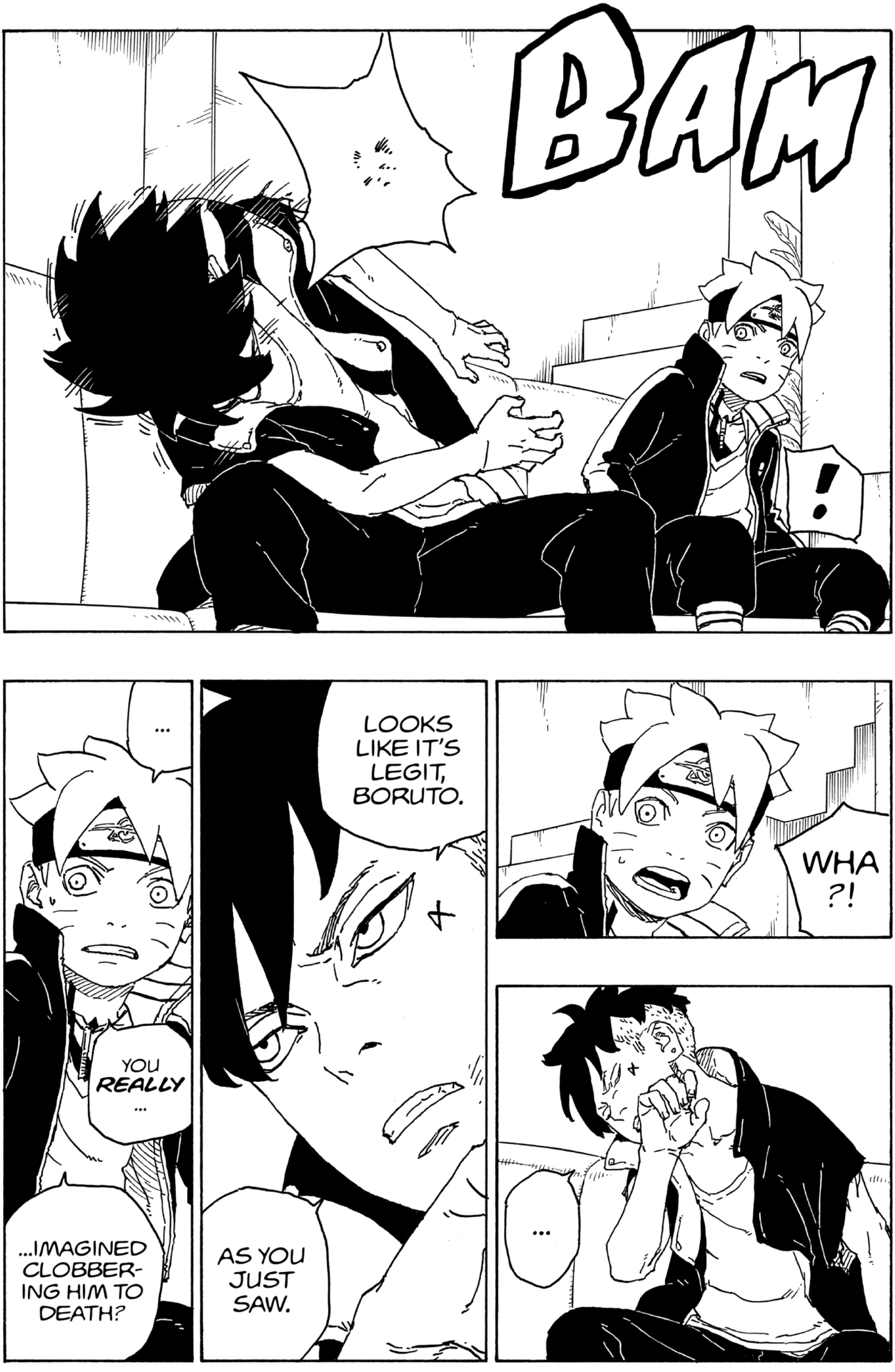

ALL RIGHT. START TALKING, AMADO.
DON'T LEAVE ANYTHING OUT.
NO MORE SECRETS.
FINE.
AS LONG AS YOU LET ME SMOKE.
YEESH...
THIS IS GONNA BE QUITE THE MISSION...

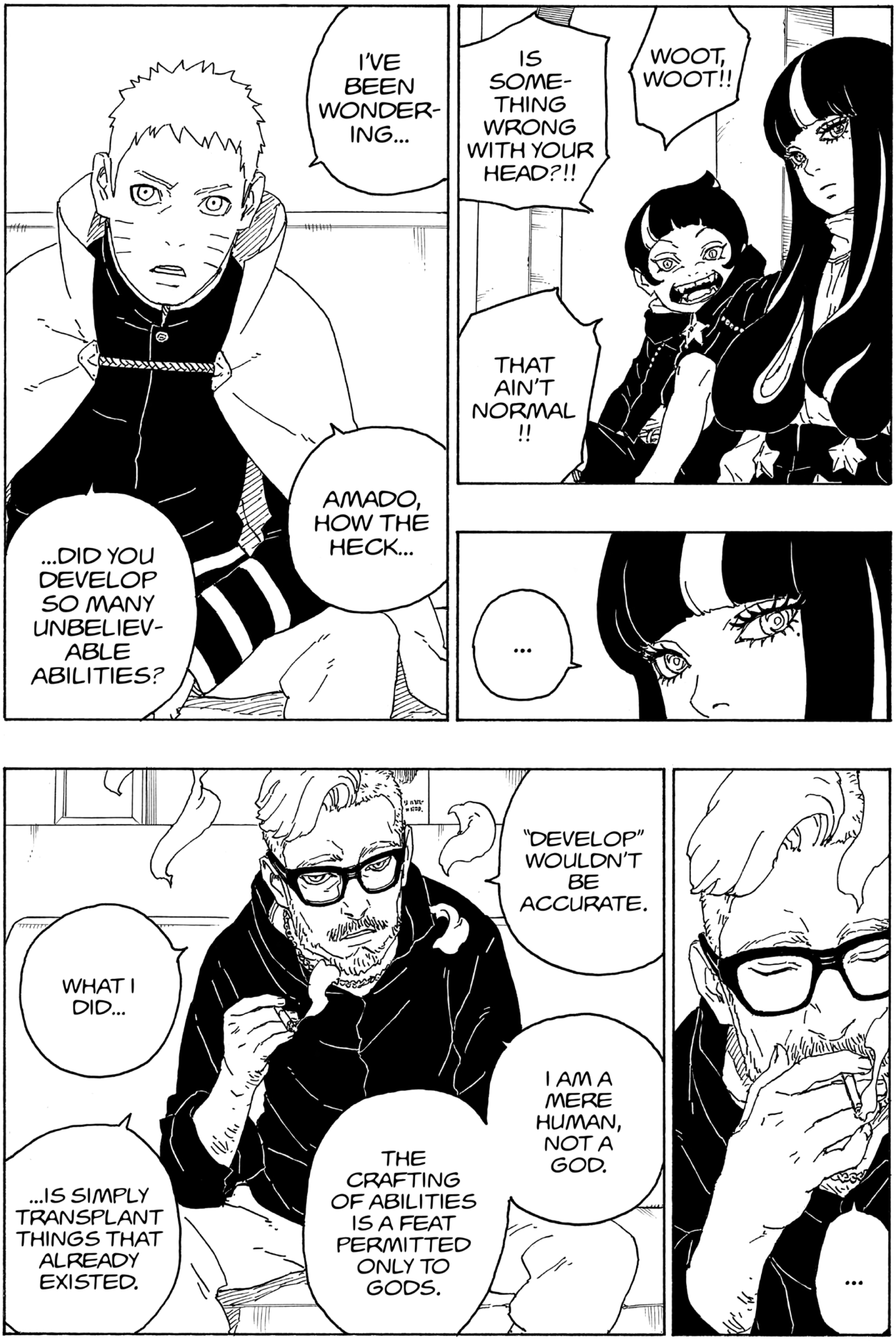
Number 75: The Domain of Gods

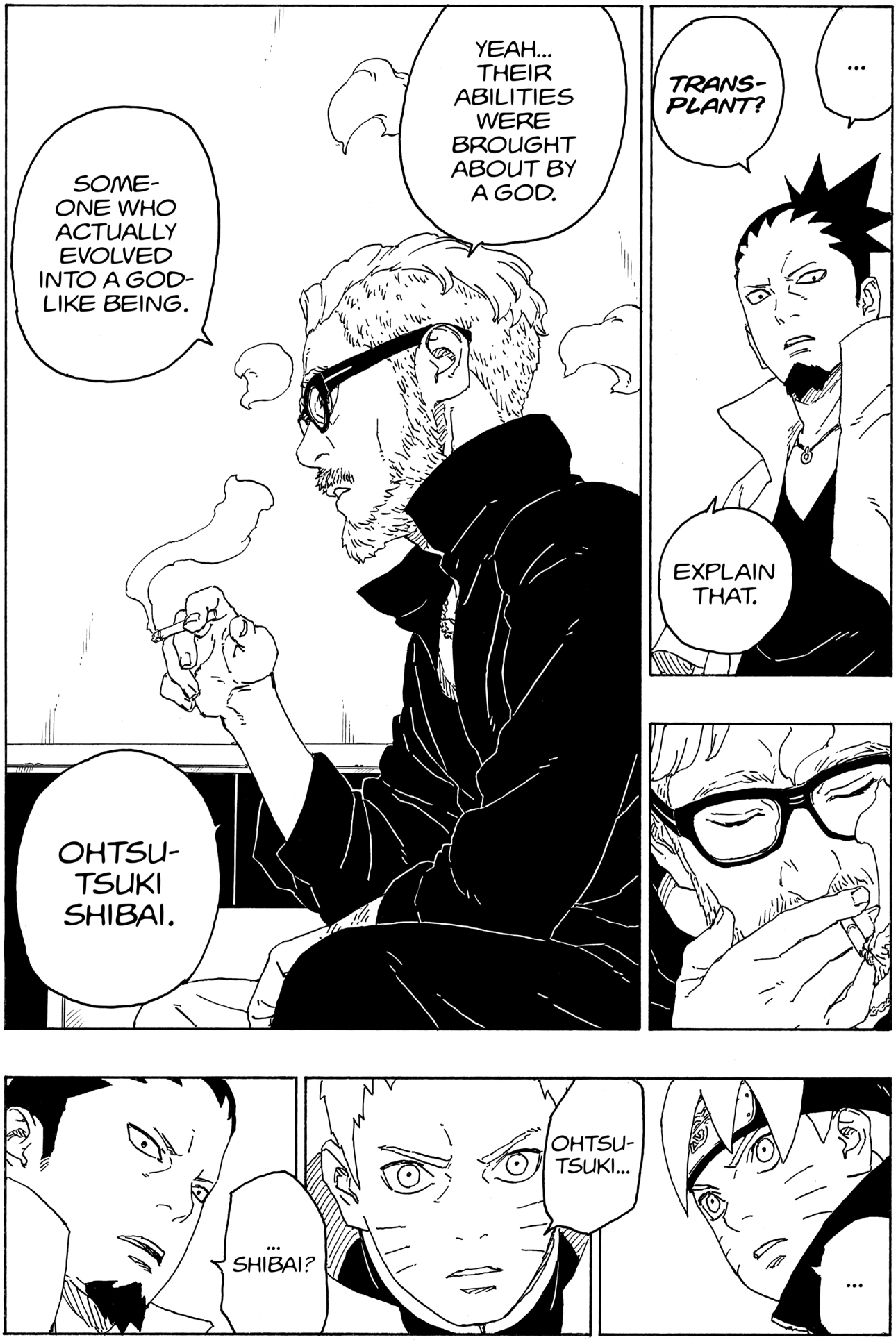

EIDA...
...ENCHANTS ALL, REGARDLESS OF GENDER.
ONLY BLOOD RELATIVES AND OHTSUTSUKI AREN'T AFFECTED.
MEANING IT DOESN'T WORK ON BORUTO, KAWAKI...
...AND HER LITTLE BROTHER DAEMON.
PLUS HER LEFT EYE'S SENRIGAN...
IT ALLOWS HER TO PEEK IN ON ALL THINGS HAPPENING ACROSS THIS WORLD.
SHE CAN ALSO HEAR CONVERSATIONS AS IF SHE WERE ACTUALLY THERE.
IT ALSO LETS HER BROWSE PAST EVENTS.
THOUGH SHE CAN'T SEE ANYTHING THAT TOOK PLACE PRIOR TO HER BIRTH.
SO SHE CAN ONLY GO BACK 16 YEARS AT THE PRESENT.

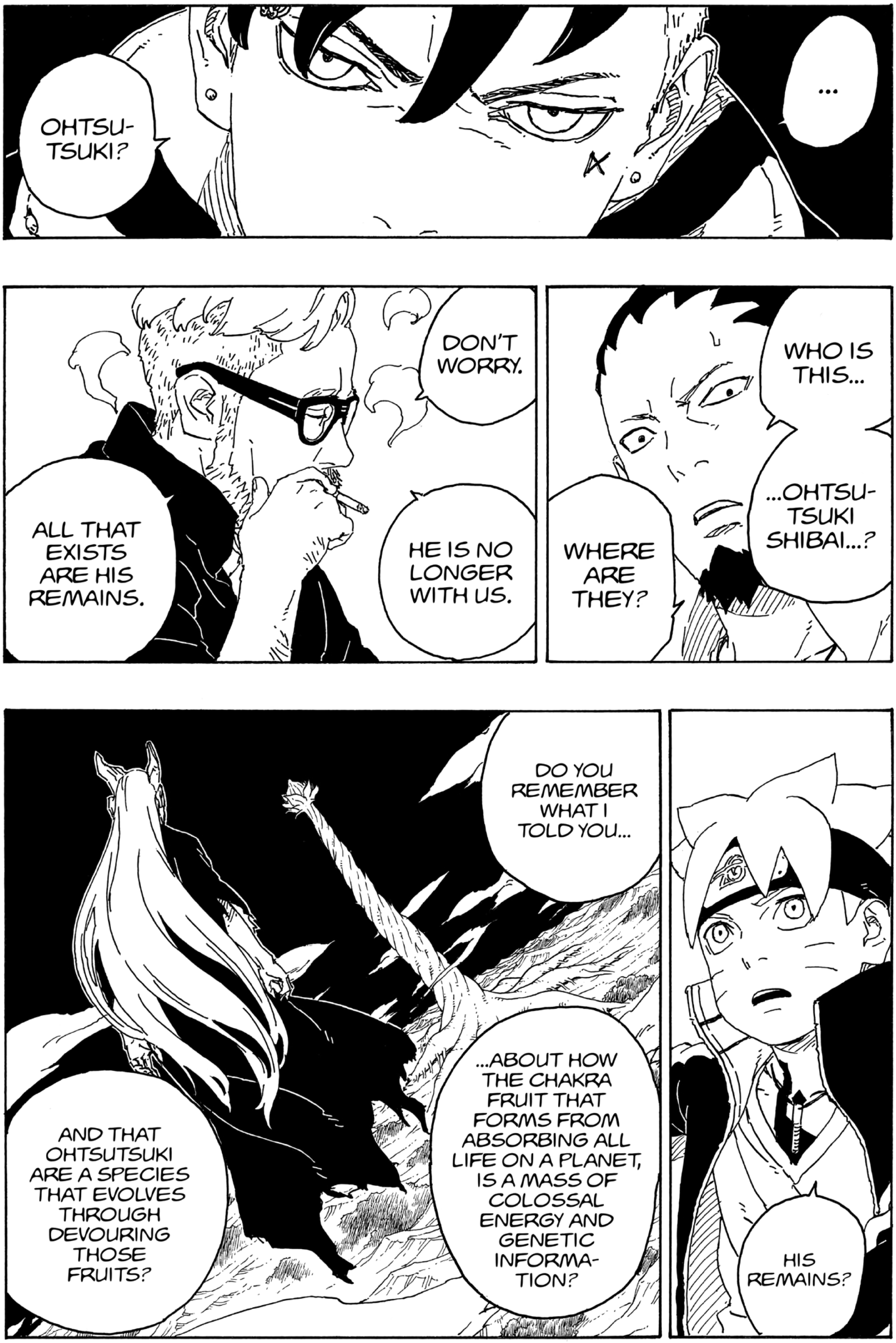

AS FOR HER BROTHER DAEMON...
HE **REFLECTS** ALL ATTACKS.
ANY ACTION THAT WOULD INFLICT HARM ON HIM.
AND THOUGH HE NEEDS TO BE...
...TOUCHING ANOTHER PERSON TO ACHIEVE THIS, HIS ABILITY WILL ALSO...
...CAUSE THE ACTIONS OF THE PERSON HE'S TOUCHING TO BE REPELLED ONTO THEM.
THAT'S EVERYTHING IN A NUTSHELL.
WHAT A CRAZY LIST OF ABILITIES.
IT MAKES MY HEAD HURTS...

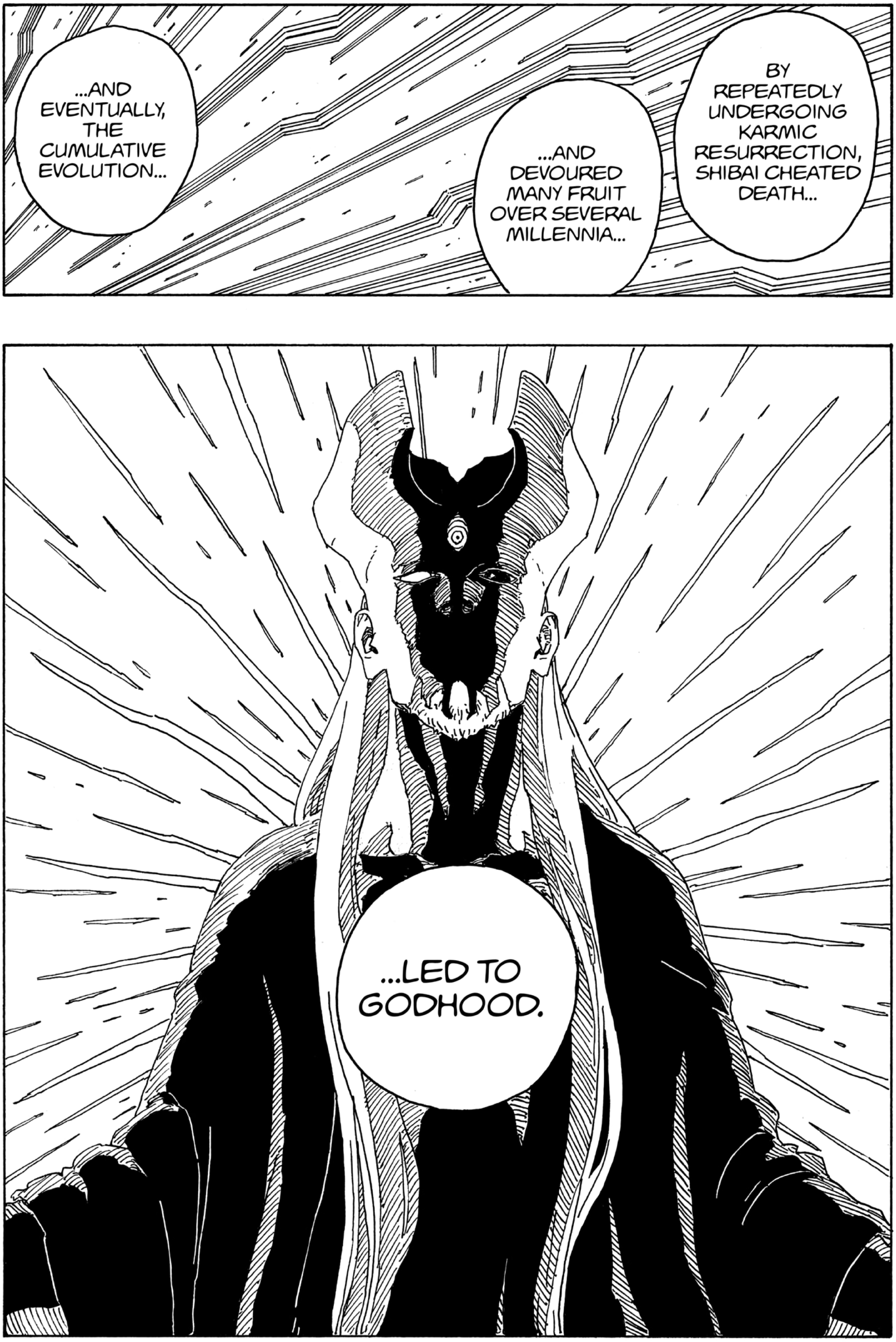

DAEMON IS AN IRRITATING, PESKY BRAT, BUT...
...JUST BE CAREFUL NOT TO AIM MURDEROUS INTENT TOWARD HIM, NO MATTER WHAT.
BECAUSE THAT TOO WILL BE REFLECTED.
IT DEPENDS ON CERTAIN CONDITIONS, BUT...
...IT WILL ALL REBOUND BACK TO YOU.
WHAT?
OKAY, NOW YOU'VE LOST ME.
SMIRK SMIRK
WANNA TEST IT?
!
UH... NAH, NO THANKS.
...

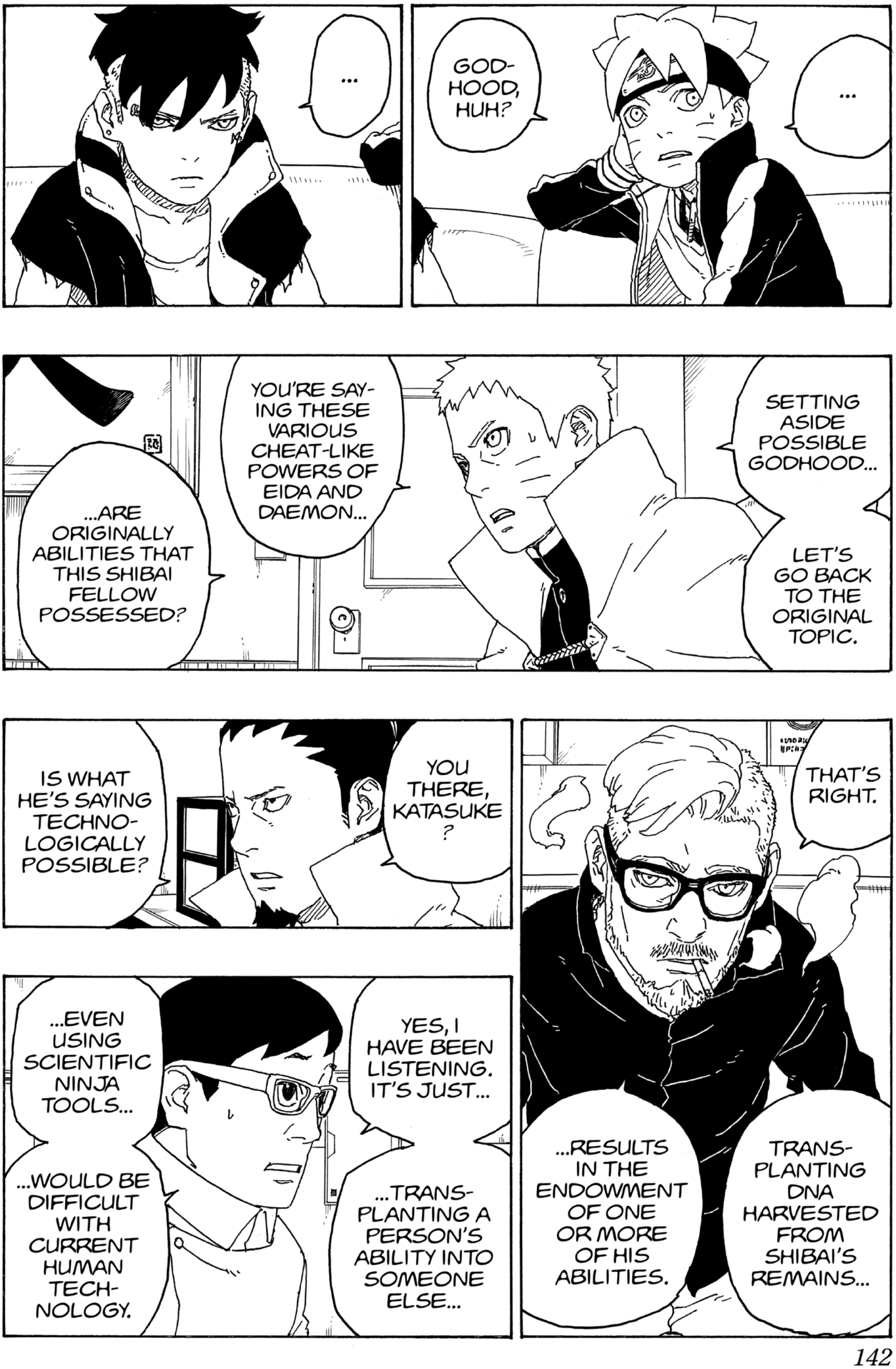

BAM
!
WHA ?!
...
LOOKS LIKE IT'S LEGIT, BORUTO.
AS YOU JUST SAW.
...
YOU *REALLY* ...
...IMAGINED CLOBBERING HIM TO DEATH?

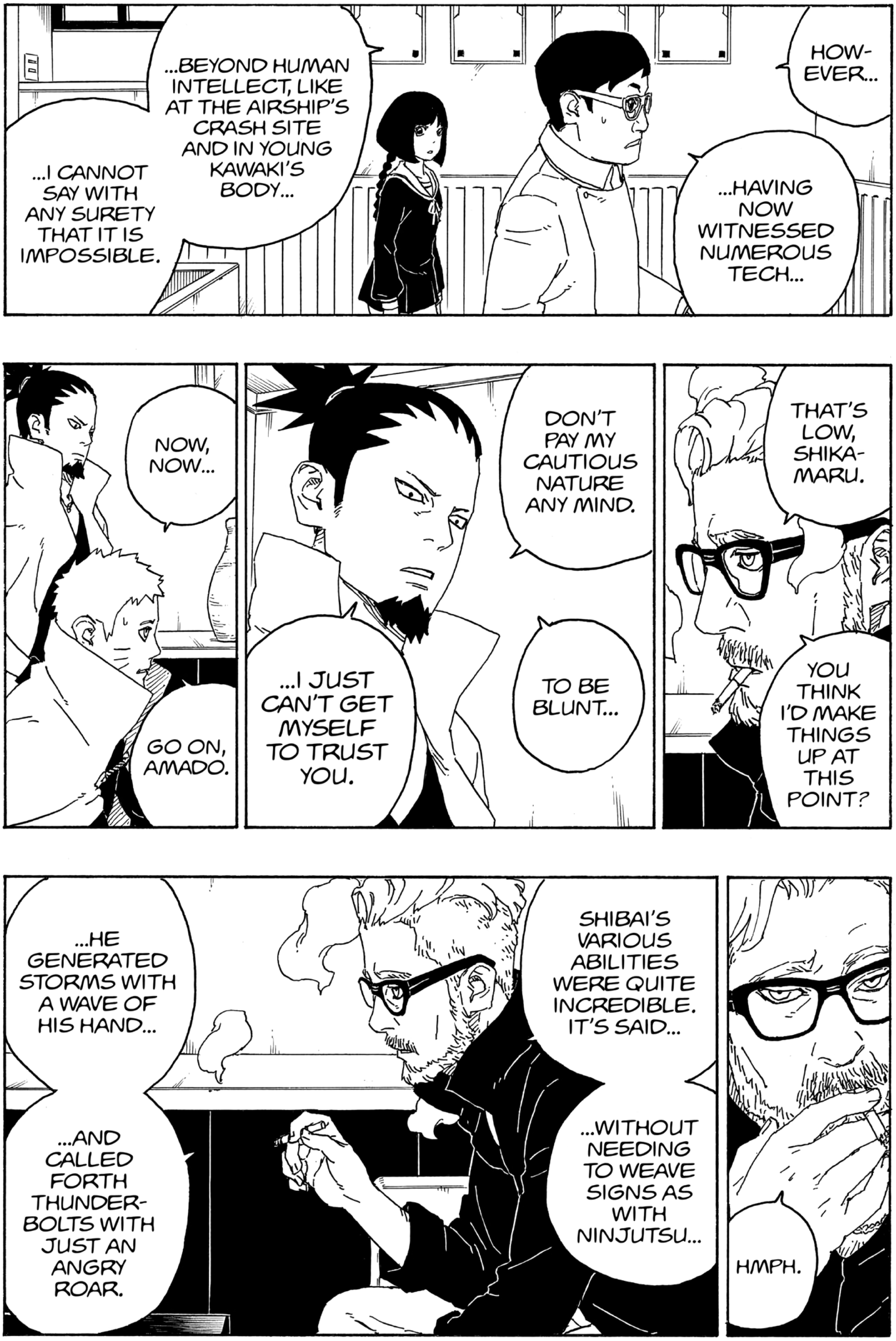

I'VE BEEN WONDERING...
AMADO, HOW THE HECK...
...DID YOU DEVELOP SO MANY UNBELIEVABLE ABILITIES?
WOOT, WOOT!!
IS SOMETHING WRONG WITH YOUR HEAD?!!
THAT AIN'T NORMAL!!
...
"DEVELOP" WOULDN'T BE ACCURATE.
WHAT I DID...
...IS SIMPLY TRANSPLANT THINGS THAT ALREADY EXISTED.
THE CRAFTING OF ABILITIES IS A FEAT PERMITTED ONLY TO GODS.
I AM A MERE HUMAN, NOT A GOD.
...

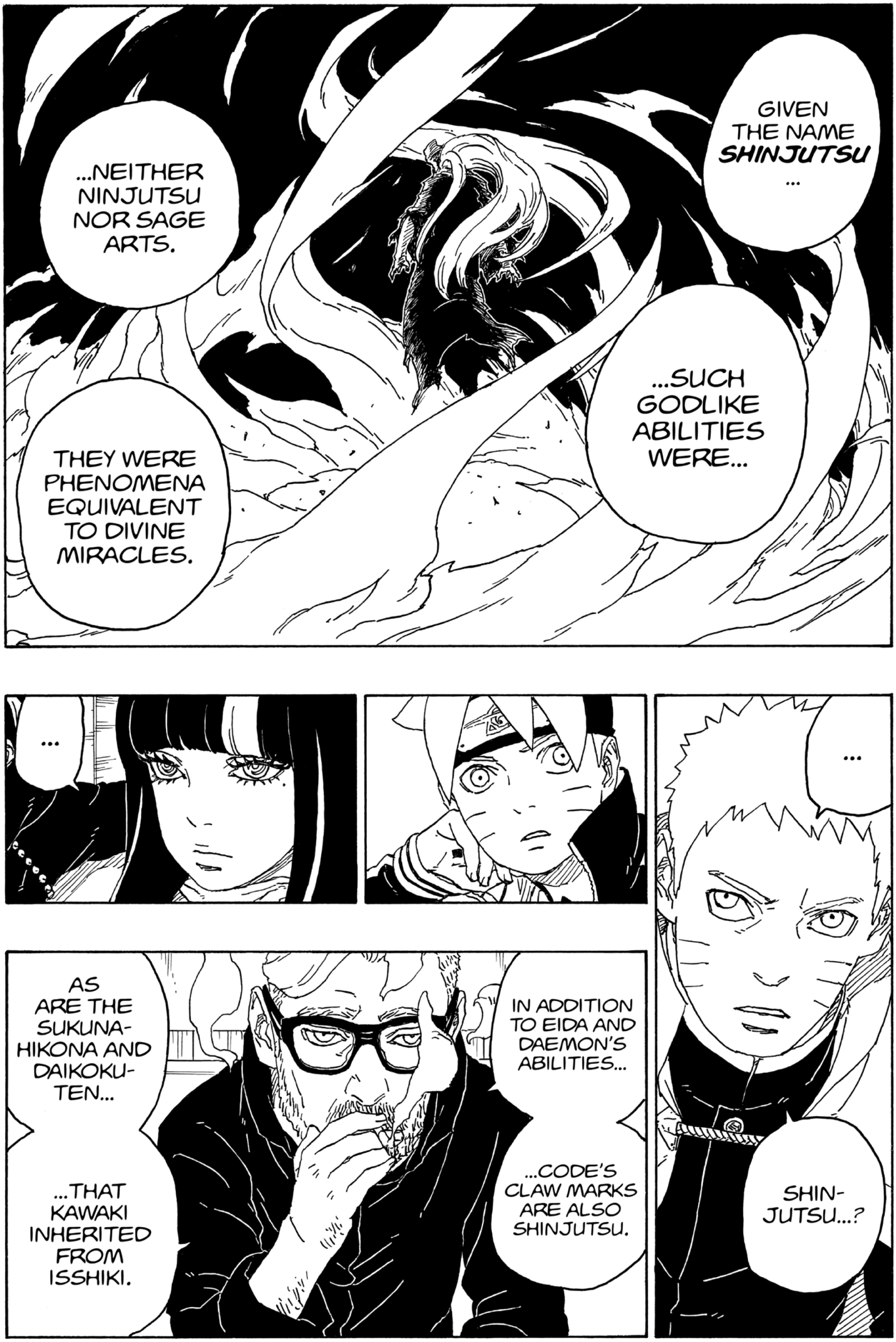

...
TRANSPLANT?
EXPLAIN THAT.
YEAH... THEIR ABILITIES WERE BROUGHT ABOUT BY A GOD.
SOMEONE WHO ACTUALLY EVOLVED INTO A GODLIKE BEING.
OHTSUTSUKI SHIBAI.
...
OHTSUTSUKI...
...SHIBAI?

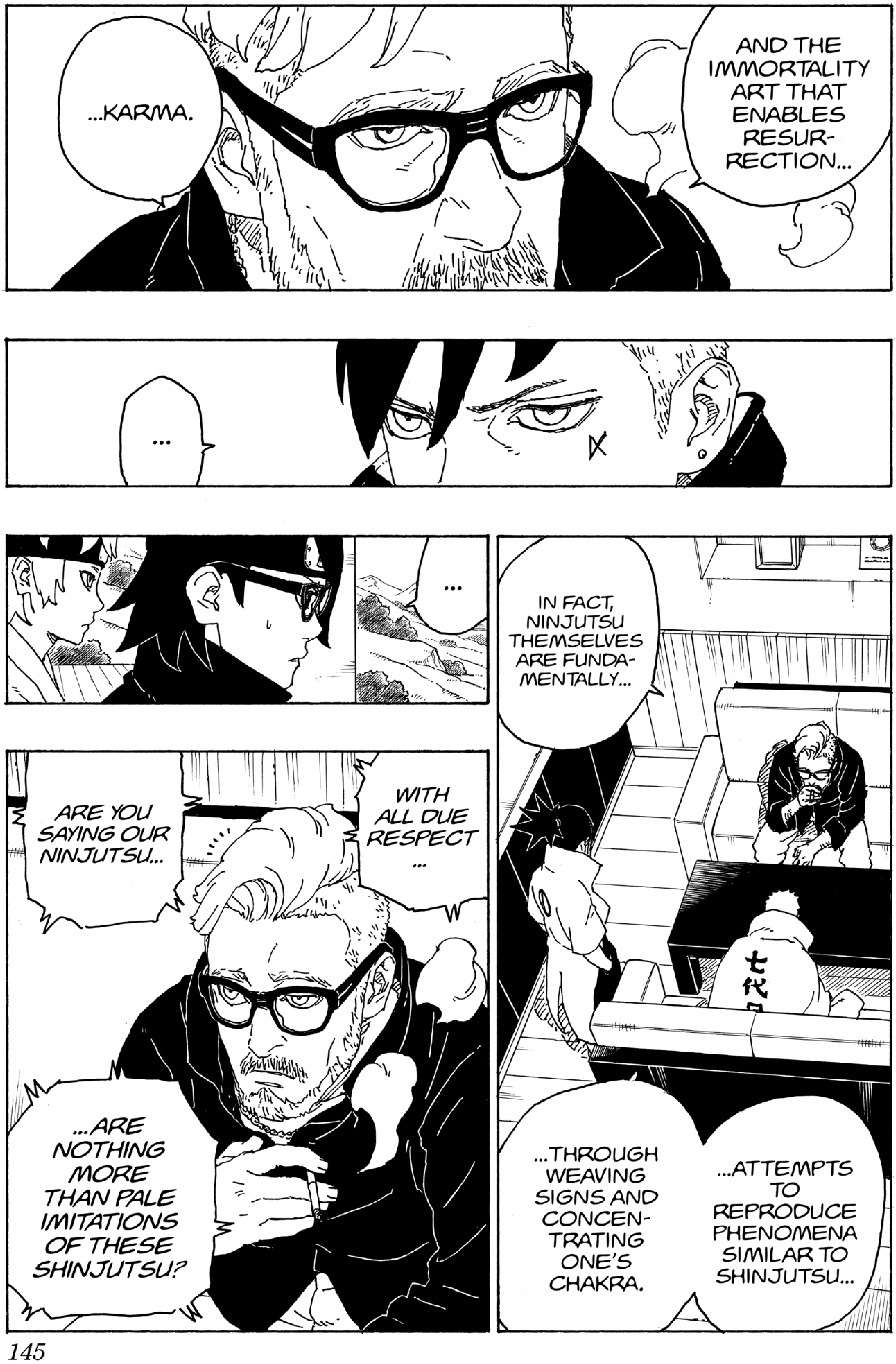

...
OHTSUTSUKI?
WHO IS THIS...
...OHTSUTSUKI SHIBAI...?
WHERE ARE THEY?
DON'T WORRY.
HE IS NO LONGER WITH US.
ALL THAT EXISTS ARE HIS REMAINS.
HIS REMAINS?
DO YOU REMEMBER WHAT I TOLD YOU...
...ABOUT HOW THE CHAKRA FRUIT THAT FORMS FROM ABSORBING ALL LIFE ON A PLANET, IS A MASS OF COLOSSAL ENERGY AND GENETIC INFORMATION?
AND THAT OHTSUTSUKI ARE A SPECIES THAT EVOLVES THROUGH DEVOURING THOSE FRUITS?

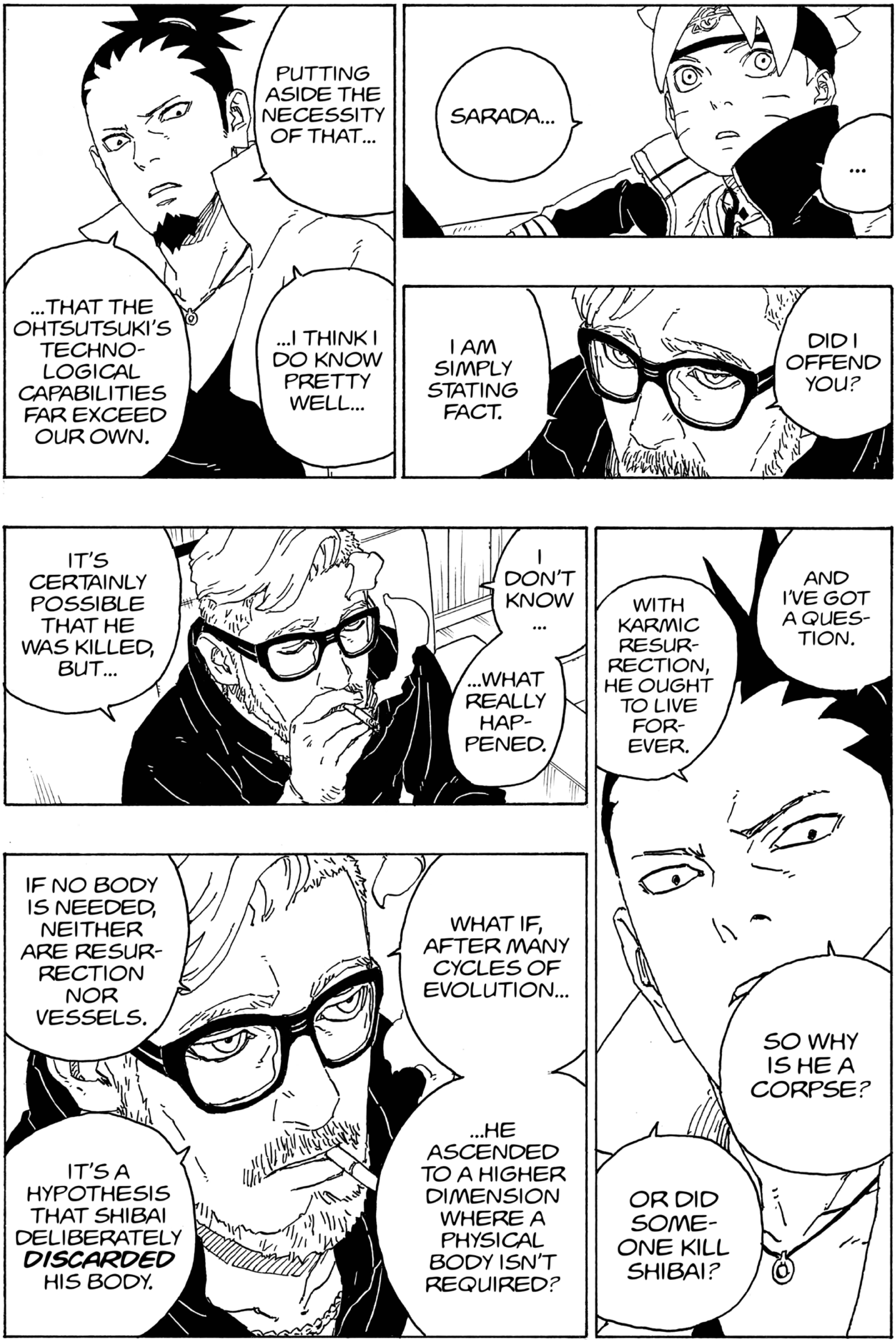

BY REPEATEDLY UNDERGOING KARMIC RESURRECTION, SHIBAI CHEATED DEATH...
...AND DEVOURED MANY FRUIT OVER SEVERAL MILLENNIA...
...AND EVENTUALLY, THE CUMULATIVE EVOLUTION...
...LED TO GODHOOD.

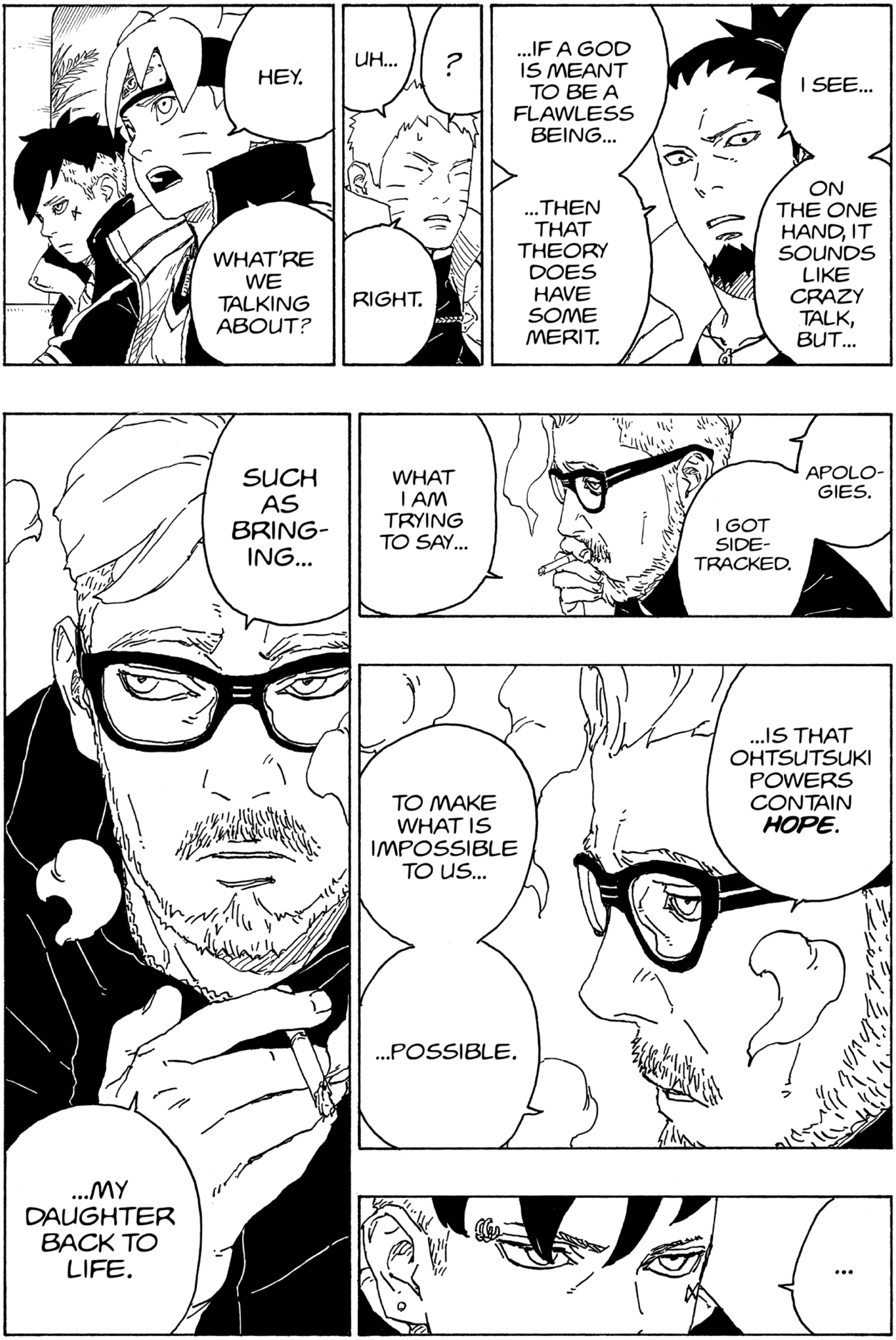

...
GODHOOD, HUH?
...
SETTING ASIDE POSSIBLE GODHOOD...
LET'S GO BACK TO THE ORIGINAL TOPIC.
YOU'RE SAYING THESE VARIOUS CHEAT-LIKE POWERS OF EIDA AND DAEMON...
...ARE ORIGINALLY ABILITIES THAT THIS SHIBAI FELLOW POSSESSED?
THAT'S RIGHT.
TRANSPLANTING DNA HARVESTED FROM SHIBAI'S REMAINS...
...RESULTS IN THE ENDOWMENT OF ONE OR MORE OF HIS ABILITIES.
YOU THERE, KATASUKE?
IS WHAT HE'S SAYING TECHNOLOGICALLY POSSIBLE?
YES, I HAVE BEEN LISTENING. IT'S JUST...
...TRANSPLANTING A PERSON'S ABILITY INTO SOMEONE ELSE...
...EVEN USING SCIENTIFIC NINJA TOOLS...
...WOULD BE DIFFICULT WITH CURRENT HUMAN TECHNOLOGY.

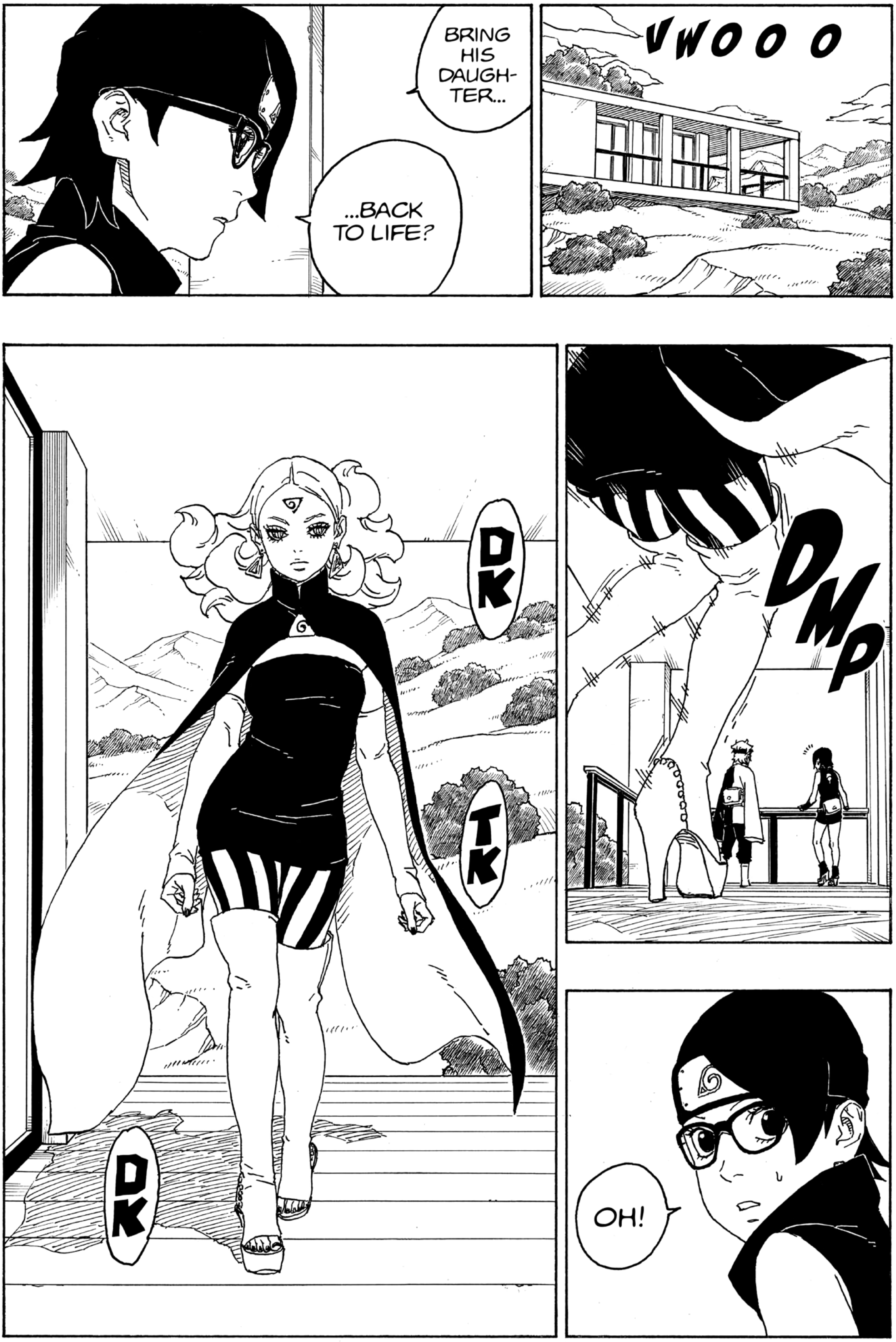

HOWEVER...
...HAVING NOW WITNESSED NUMEROUS TECH...
...BEYOND HUMAN INTELLECT, LIKE AT THE AIRSHIP'S CRASH SITE AND IN YOUNG KAWAKI'S BODY...
...I CANNOT SAY WITH ANY SURETY THAT IT IS IMPOSSIBLE.
THAT'S LOW, SHIKAMARU.
YOU THINK I'D MAKE THINGS UP AT THIS POINT?
DON'T PAY MY CAUTIOUS NATURE ANY MIND.
TO BE BLUNT...
...I JUST CAN'T GET MYSELF TO TRUST YOU.
NOW, NOW...
GO ON, AMADO.
HMPH.
SHIBAI'S VARIOUS ABILITIES WERE QUITE INCREDIBLE. IT'S SAID...
...WITHOUT NEEDING TO WEAVE SIGNS AS WITH NINJUTSU...
...HE GENERATED STORMS WITH A WAVE OF HIS HAND...
...AND CALLED FORTH THUNDERBOLTS WITH JUST AN ANGRY ROAR.

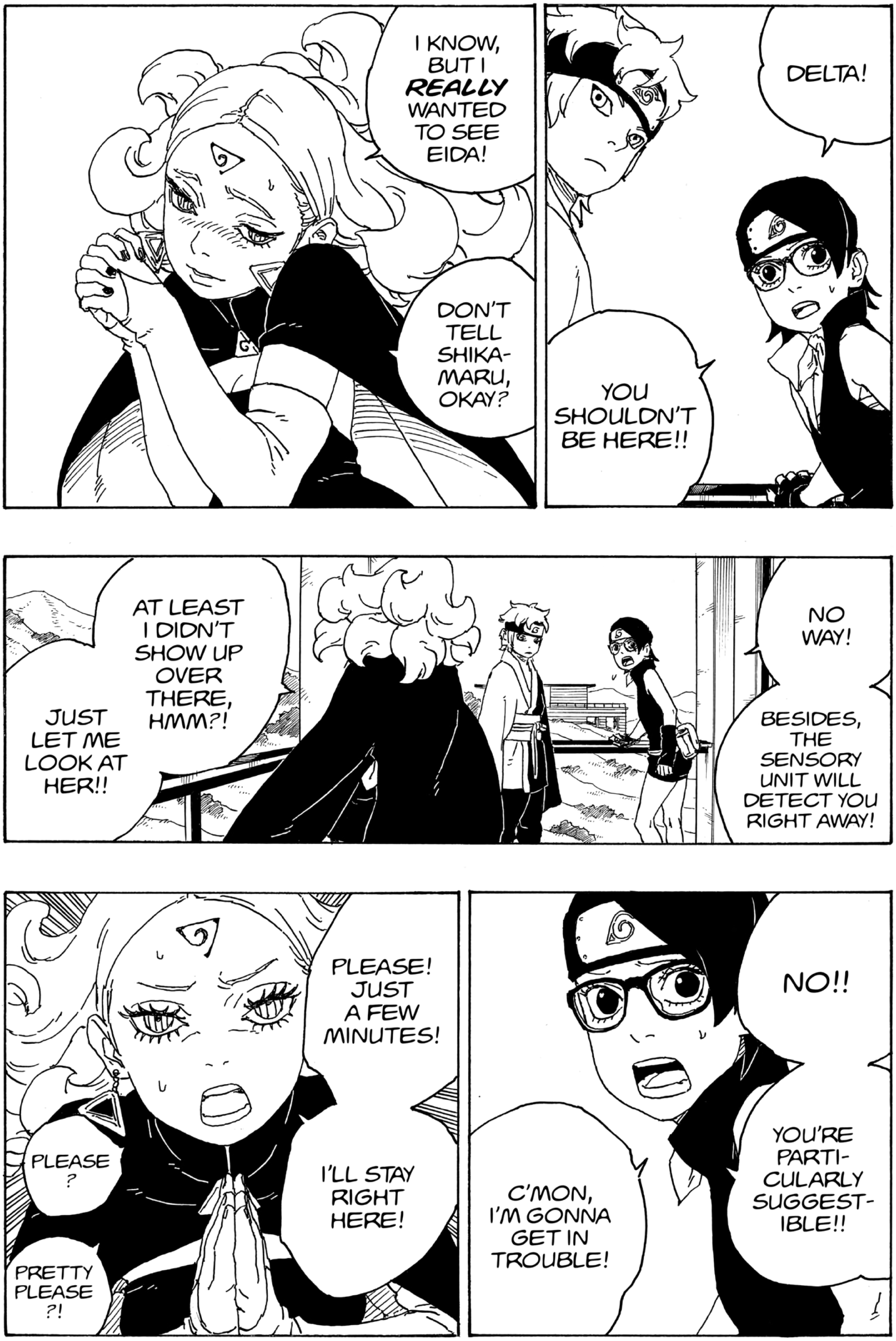

...NEITHER NINJUTSU NOR SAGE ARTS.
THEY WERE PHENOMENA EQUIVALENT TO DIVINE MIRACLES.
...SUCH GODLIKE ABILITIES WERE...
GIVEN THE NAME **SHINJUTSU** ...
...
SHIN-JUTSU...?
...
IN ADDITION TO EIDA AND DAEMON'S ABILITIES...
...CODE'S CLAW MARKS ARE ALSO SHINJUTSU.
AS ARE THE SUKUNA-HIKONA AND DAIKOKU-TEN...
...THAT KAWAKI INHERITED FROM ISSHIKI.

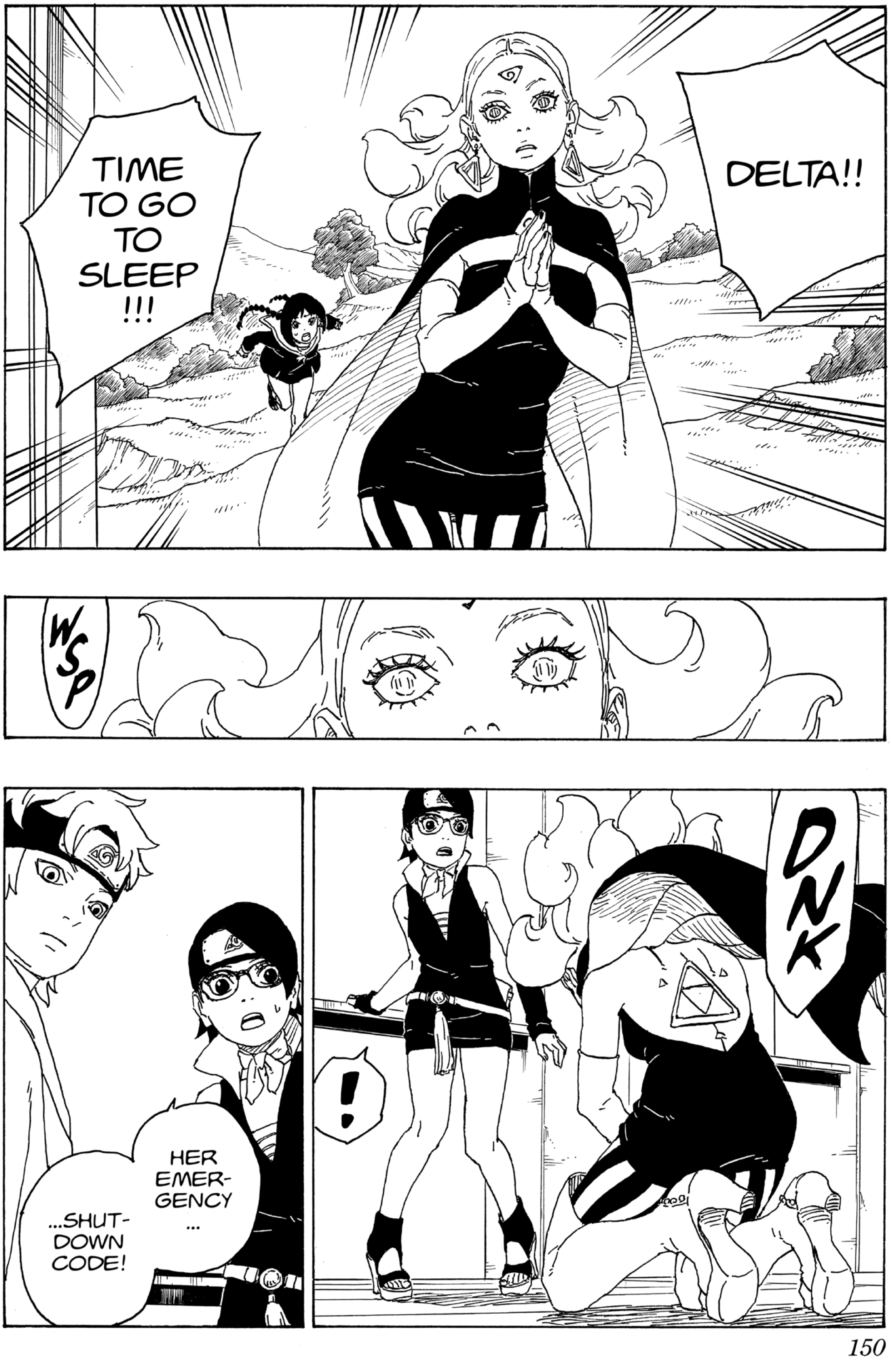

AND THE IMMORTALITY ART THAT ENABLES RESURRECTION...
...KARMA.
...
IN FACT, NINJUTSU THEMSELVES ARE FUNDAMENTALLY...
...ATTEMPTS TO REPRODUCE PHENOMENA SIMILAR TO SHINJUTSU...
...THROUGH WEAVING SIGNS AND CONCENTRATING ONE'S CHAKRA.
七代
...
WITH ALL DUE RESPECT...
ARE YOU SAYING OUR NINJUTSU...
...ARE NOTHING MORE THAN PALE IMITATIONS OF THESE SHINJUTSU?

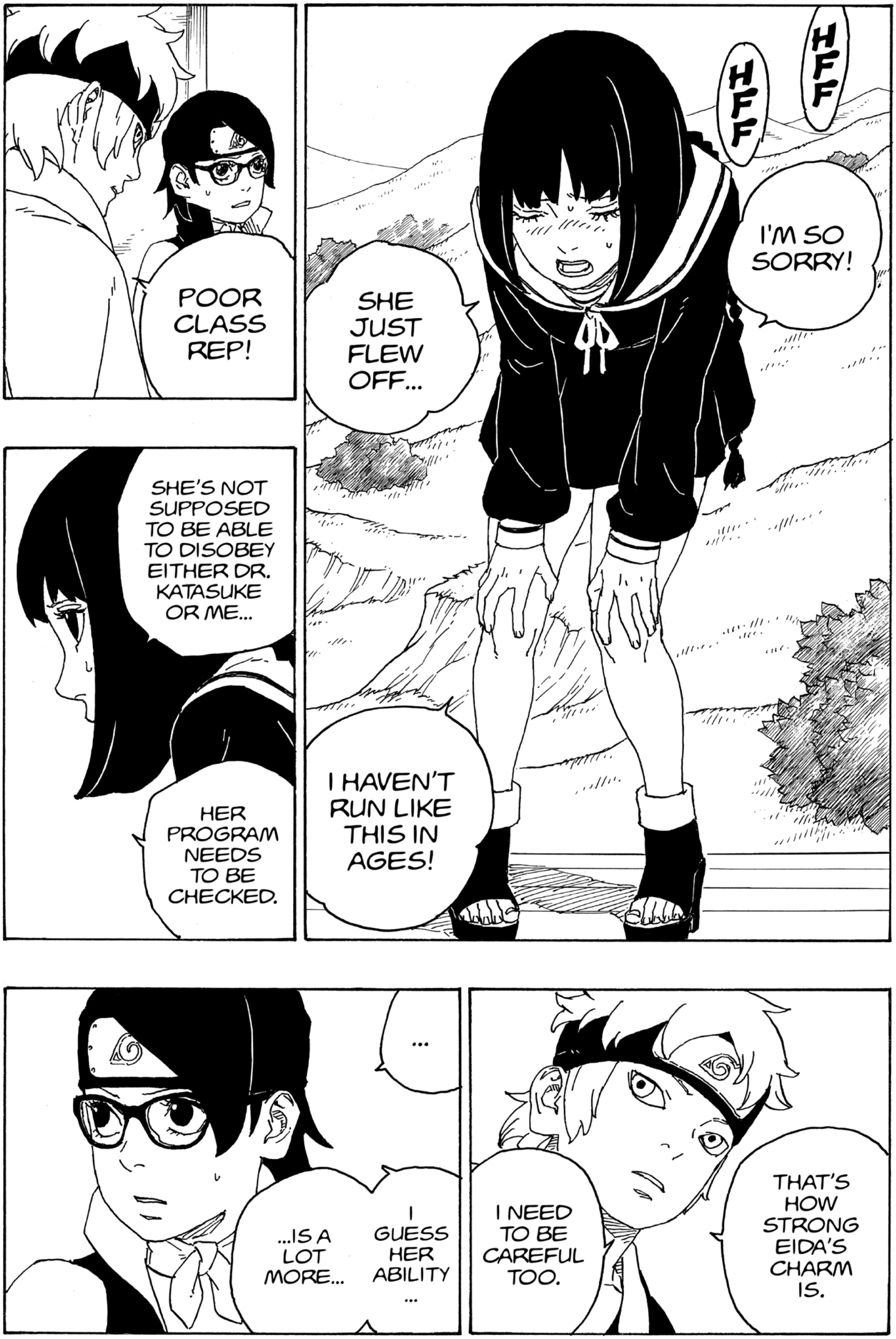

...
SARADA...
PUTTING ASIDE THE NECESSITY OF THAT...
...I THINK I DO KNOW PRETTY WELL...
...THAT THE OHTSUTSUKI'S TECHNOLOGICAL CAPABILITIES FAR EXCEED OUR OWN.
DID I OFFEND YOU?
I AM SIMPLY STATING FACT.
AND I'VE GOT A QUESTION.
WITH KARMIC RESURRECTION, HE OUGHT TO LIVE FOREVER.
SO WHY IS HE A CORPSE?
OR DID SOMEONE KILL SHIBAI?
I DON'T KNOW...
...WHAT REALLY HAPPENED.
IT'S CERTAINLY POSSIBLE THAT HE WAS KILLED, BUT...
WHAT IF, AFTER MANY CYCLES OF EVOLUTION...
...HE ASCENDED TO A HIGHER DIMENSION WHERE A PHYSICAL BODY ISN'T REQUIRED?
IF NO BODY IS NEEDED, NEITHER ARE RESURRECTION NOR VESSELS.
IT'S A HYPOTHESIS THAT SHIBAI DELIBERATELY ***DISCARDED*** HIS BODY.

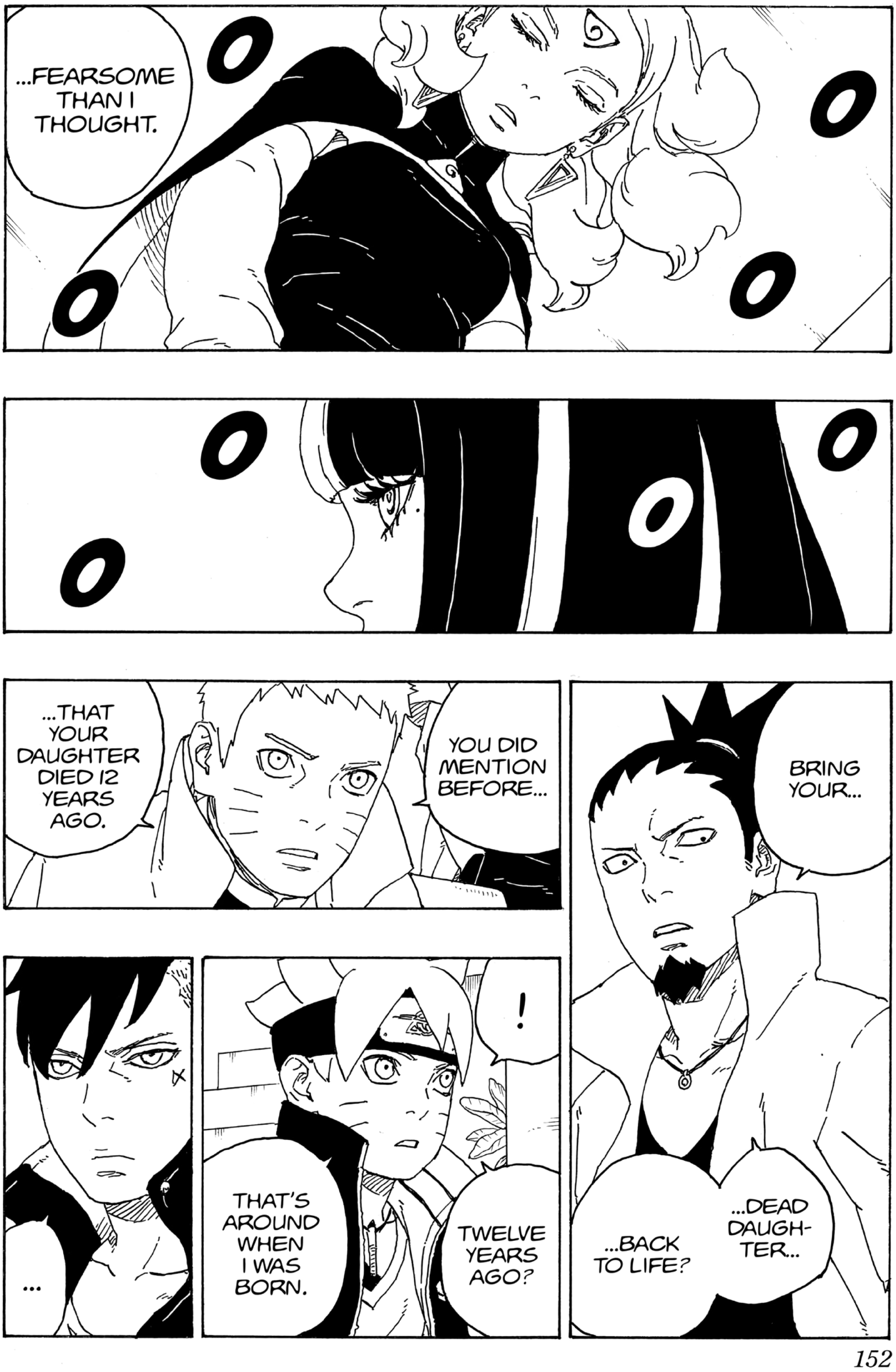

I SEE...
ON THE ONE HAND, IT SOUNDS LIKE CRAZY TALK, BUT...
...IF A GOD IS MEANT TO BE A FLAWLESS BEING...
...THEN THAT THEORY DOES HAVE SOME MERIT.
?
UH...
RIGHT.
HEY.
WHAT'RE WE TALKING ABOUT?
APOLOGIES.
I GOT SIDETRACKED.
WHAT I AM TRYING TO SAY...
...IS THAT OHTSUTSUKI POWERS CONTAIN **HOPE**.
TO MAKE WHAT IS IMPOSSIBLE TO US...
...POSSIBLE.
SUCH AS BRINGING...
...MY DAUGHTER BACK TO LIFE.
...

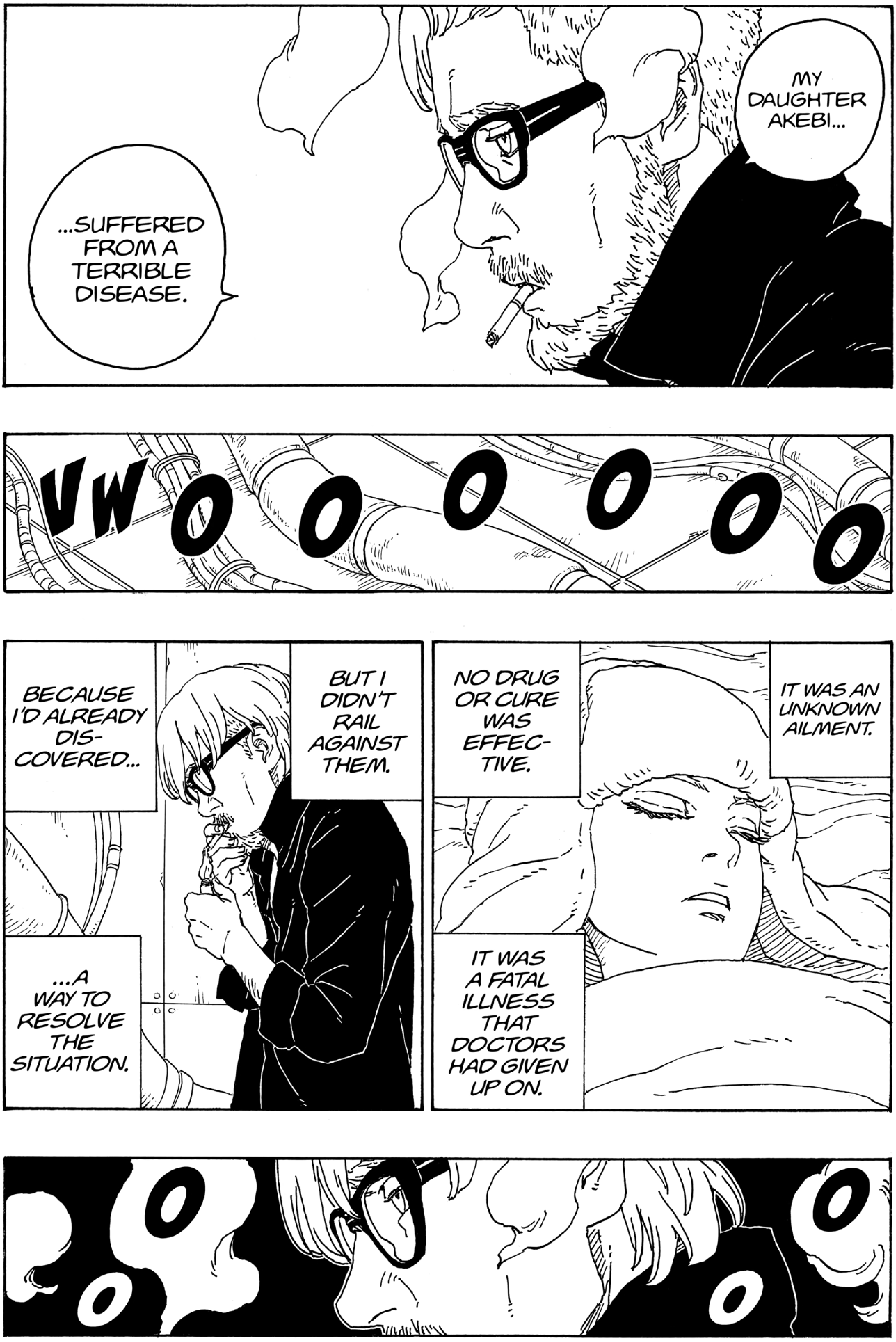

VWOO O
BRING HIS DAUGHTER...
...BACK TO LIFE?
DMP
OH!
DK
TK
DK

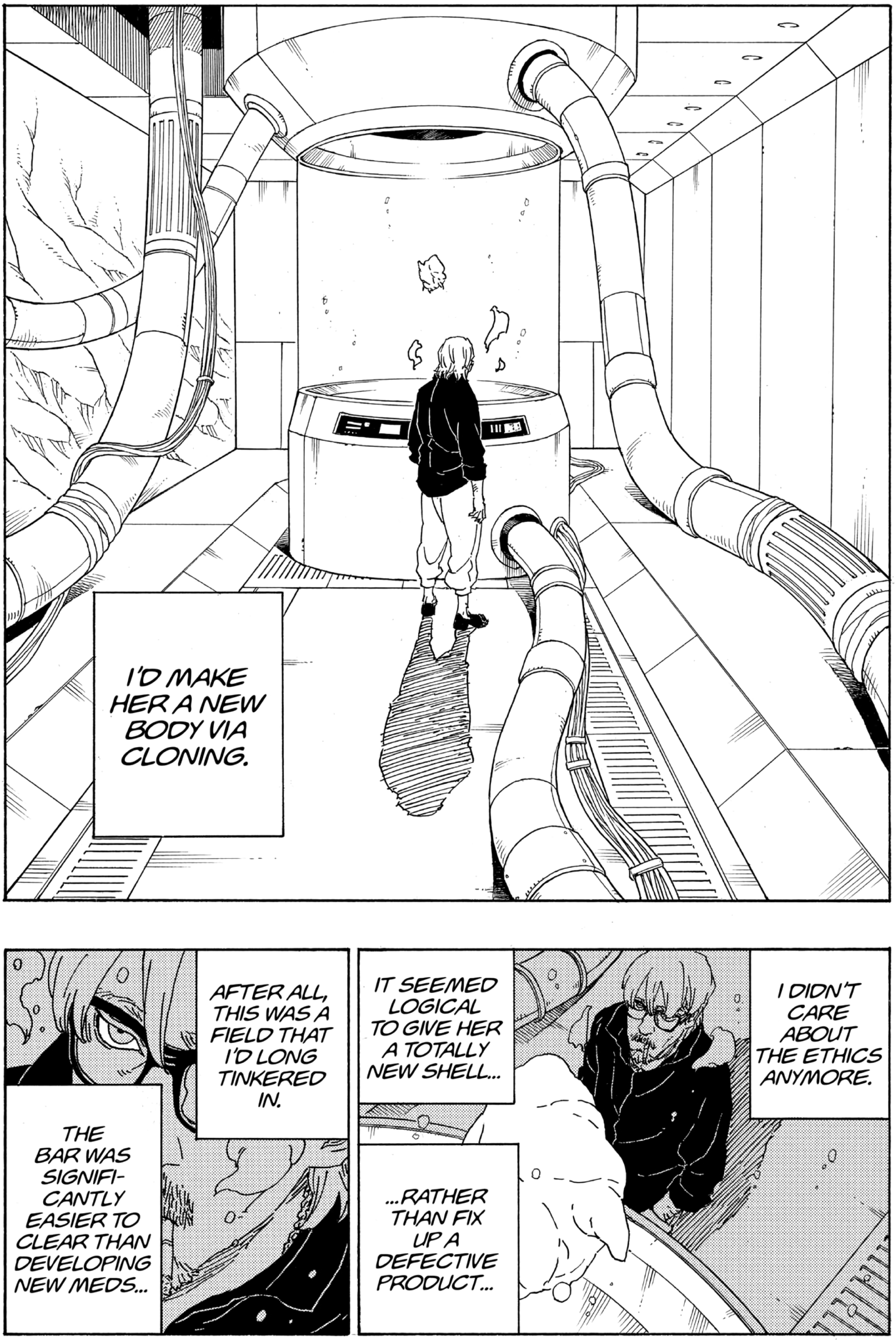

DELTA!
YOU SHOULDN'T BE HERE!!
I KNOW, BUT I **REALLY** WANTED TO SEE EIDA!
DON'T TELL SHIKAMARU, OKAY?
NO WAY!
BESIDES, THE SENSORY UNIT WILL DETECT YOU RIGHT AWAY!
AT LEAST I DIDN'T SHOW UP OVER THERE, HMM?!
JUST LET ME LOOK AT HER!!
NO!!
YOU'RE PARTICULARLY SUGGESTIBLE!!
C'MON, I'M GONNA GET IN TROUBLE!
PLEASE! JUST A FEW MINUTES!
I'LL STAY RIGHT HERE!
PLEASE?
PRETTY PLEASE?!

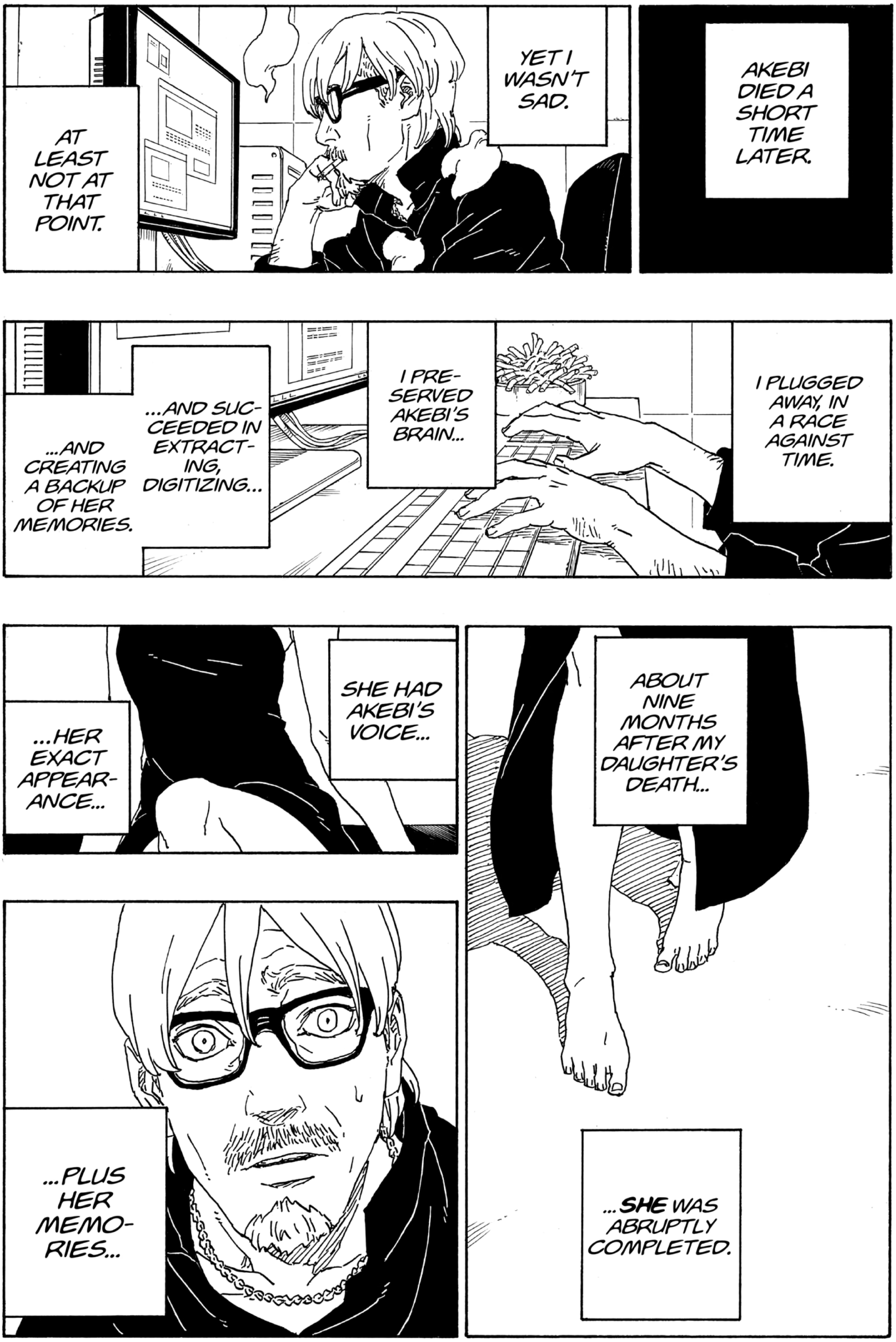

DELTA!!
TIME TO GO TO SLEEP!!!
WSP
DNK
!
HER EMERGENCY...
...SHUTDOWN CODE!

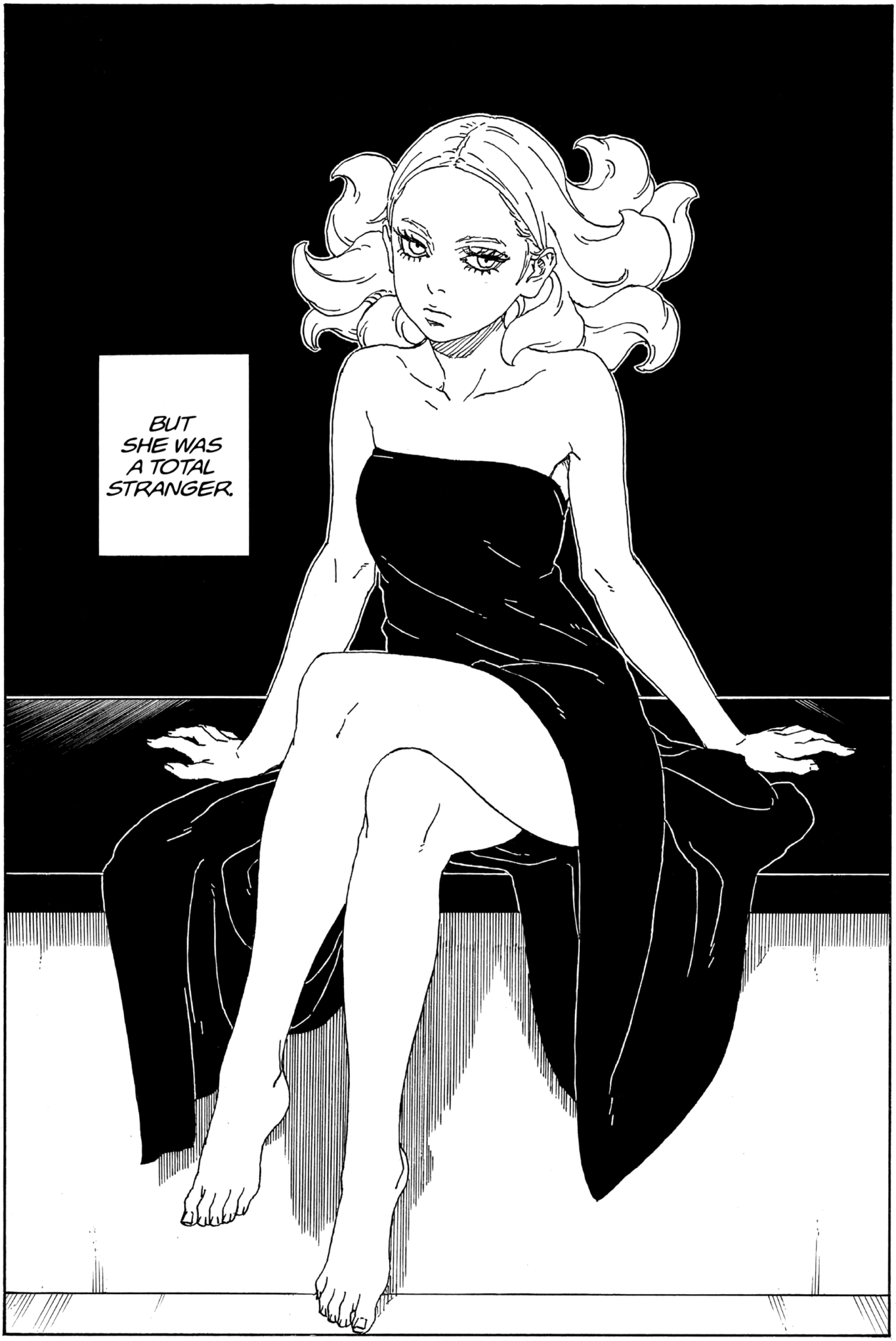

HFF HFF
I'M SO SORRY!
SHE JUST FLEW OFF...
I HAVEN'T RUN LIKE THIS IN AGES!
POOR CLASS REP!
SHE'S NOT SUPPOSED TO BE ABLE TO DISOBEY EITHER DR. KATASUKE OR ME...
HER PROGRAM NEEDS TO BE CHECKED.
THAT'S HOW STRONG EIDA'S CHARM IS.
I NEED TO BE CAREFUL TOO.
...
I GUESS HER ABILITY ...
...IS A LOT MORE...

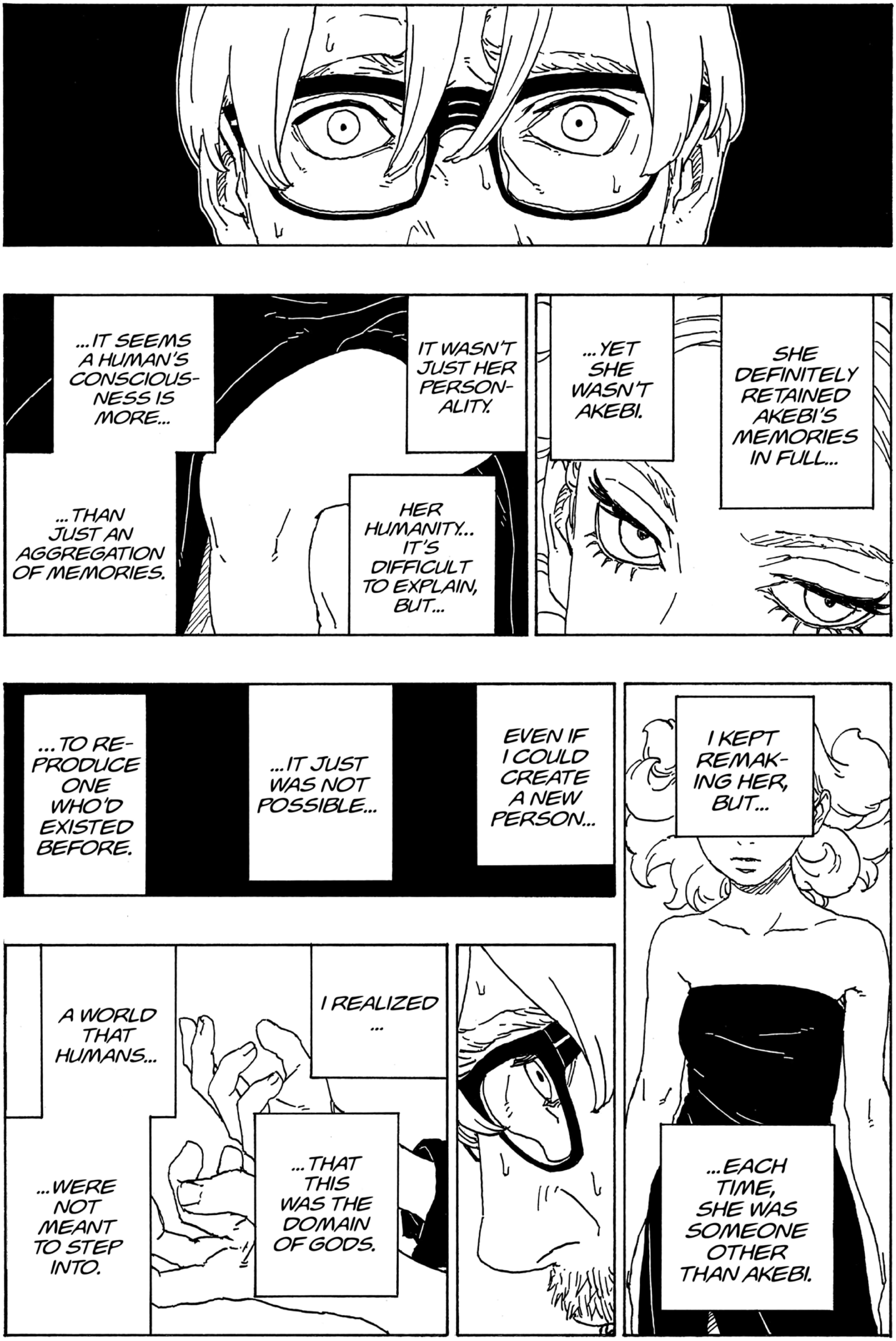

...FEARSOME THAN I THOUGHT.
BRING YOUR...
...DEAD DAUGHTER...
...BACK TO LIFE?
YOU DID MENTION BEFORE...
...THAT YOUR DAUGHTER DIED 12 YEARS AGO.
!
TWELVE YEARS AGO?
THAT'S AROUND WHEN I WAS BORN.
...

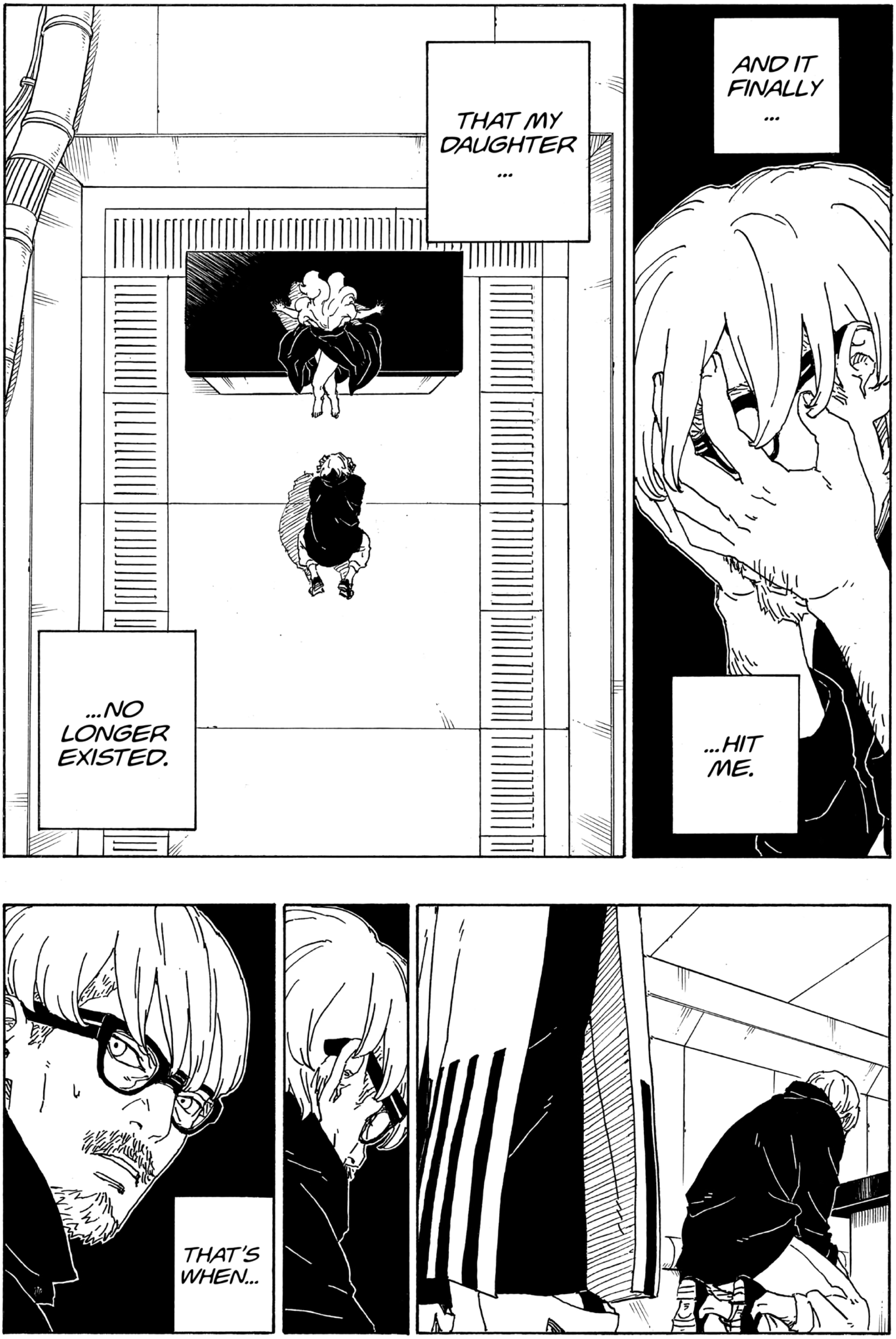

MY DAUGHTER AKEBI...
...SUFFERED FROM A TERRIBLE DISEASE.
VWOOOOOO
IT WAS AN UNKNOWN AILMENT.
NO DRUG OR CURE WAS EFFECTIVE.
IT WAS A FATAL ILLNESS THAT DOCTORS HAD GIVEN UP ON.
BUT I DIDN'T RAIL AGAINST THEM.
BECAUSE I'D ALREADY DISCOVERED...
...A WAY TO RESOLVE THE SITUATION.
OOOO

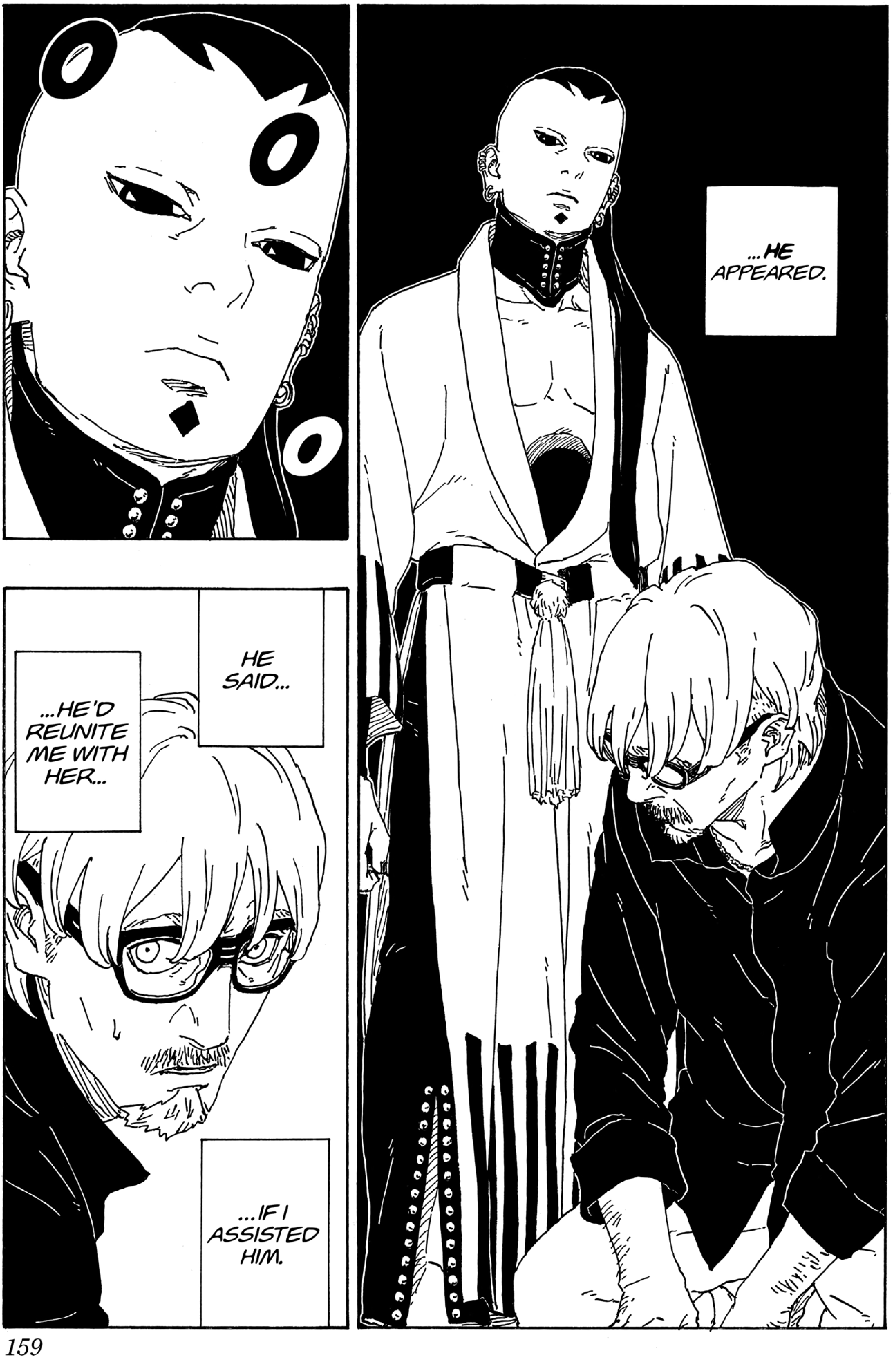

I'D MAKE HER A NEW BODY VIA CLONING.
AFTER ALL, THIS WAS A FIELD THAT I'D LONG TINKERED IN.
THE BAR WAS SIGNIFICANTLY EASIER TO CLEAR THAN DEVELOPING NEW MEDS...
IT SEEMED LOGICAL TO GIVE HER A TOTALLY NEW SHELL...
...RATHER THAN FIX UP A DEFECTIVE PRODUCT...
I DIDN'T CARE ABOUT THE ETHICS ANYMORE.

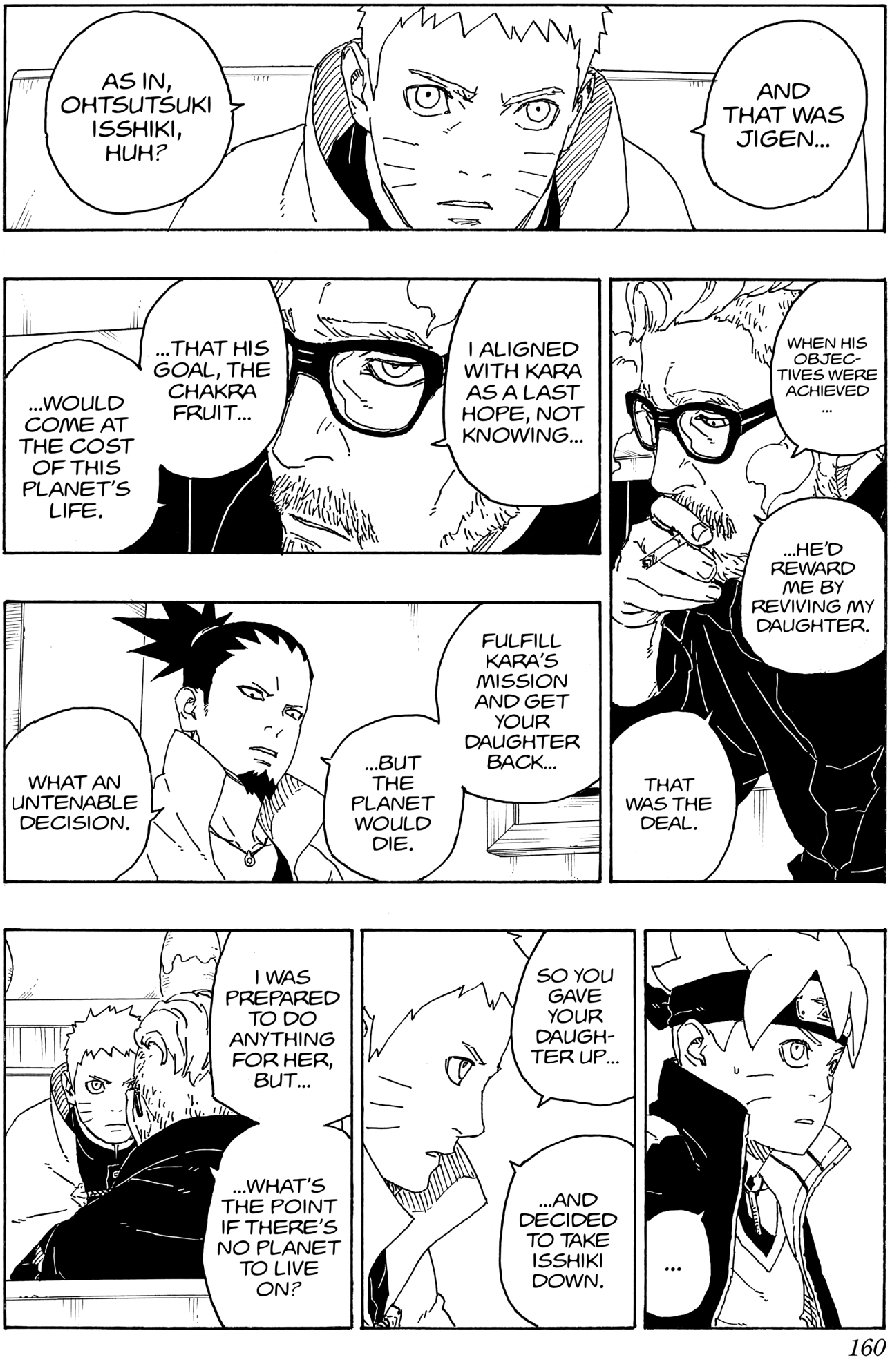

AKEBI DIED A SHORT TIME LATER.
YET I WASN'T SAD.
AT LEAST NOT AT THAT POINT.
I PLUGGED AWAY, IN A RACE AGAINST TIME.
I PRESERVED AKEBI'S BRAIN...
...AND SUCCEEDED IN EXTRACTING, DIGITIZING...
...AND CREATING A BACKUP OF HER MEMORIES.
ABOUT NINE MONTHS AFTER MY DAUGHTER'S DEATH...
SHE HAD AKEBI'S VOICE...
...HER EXACT APPEARANCE...
...PLUS HER MEMORIES...
...**SHE** WAS ABRUPTLY COMPLETED.

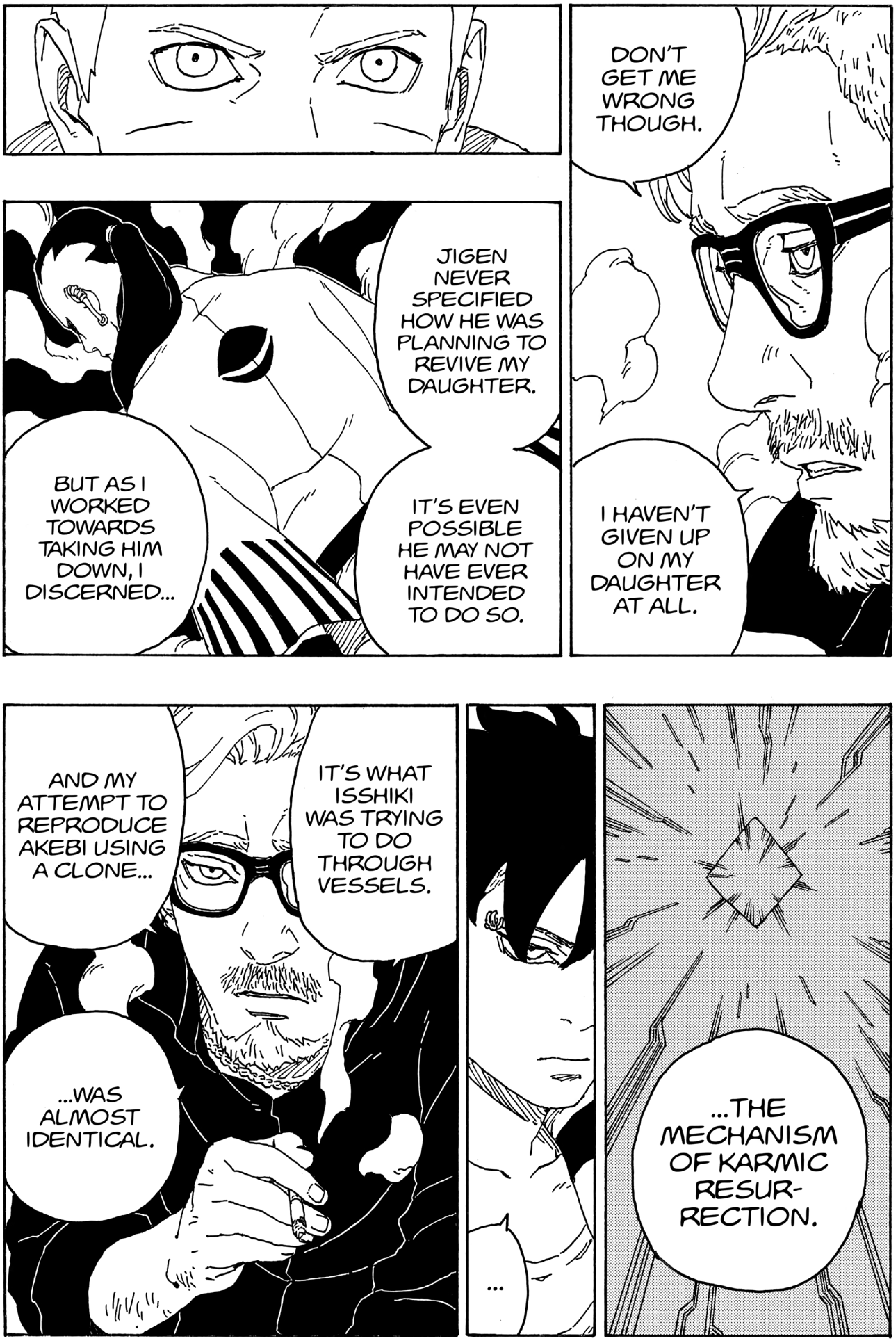

BUT SHE WAS A TOTAL STRANGER.

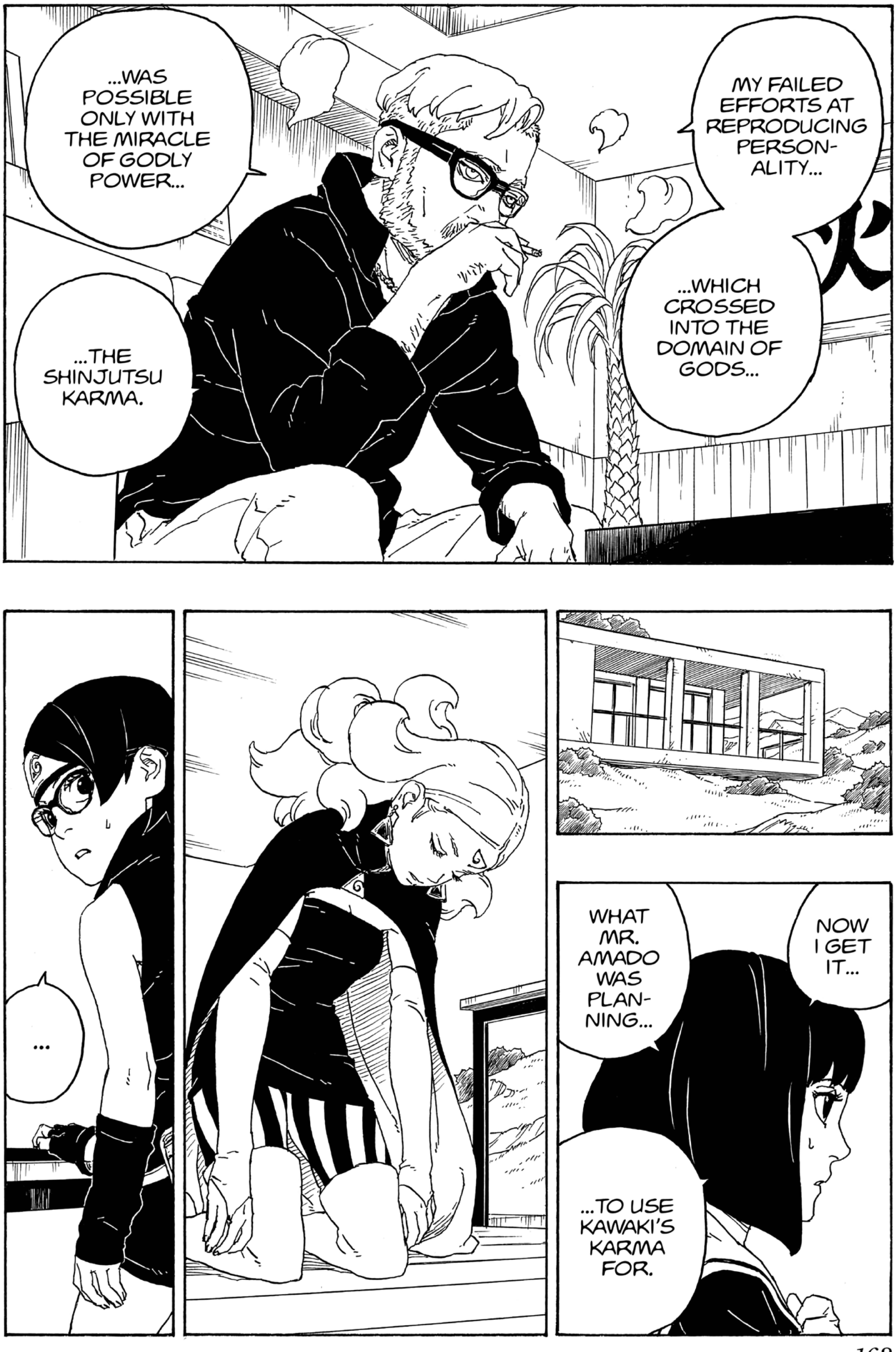

SHE DEFINITELY RETAINED AKEBI'S MEMORIES IN FULL...
...YET SHE WASN'T AKEBI.
IT WASN'T JUST HER PERSONALITY.
HER HUMANITY... IT'S DIFFICULT TO EXPLAIN, BUT...
...IT SEEMS A HUMAN'S CONSCIOUSNESS IS MORE...
...THAN JUST AN AGGREGATION OF MEMORIES.
I KEPT REMAKING HER, BUT...
...EACH TIME, SHE WAS SOMEONE OTHER THAN AKEBI.
EVEN IF I COULD CREATE A NEW PERSON...
...IT JUST WAS NOT POSSIBLE...
...TO REPRODUCE ONE WHO'D EXISTED BEFORE.
I REALIZED...
...THAT THIS WAS THE DOMAIN OF GODS.
A WORLD THAT HUMANS...
...WERE NOT MEANT TO STEP INTO.

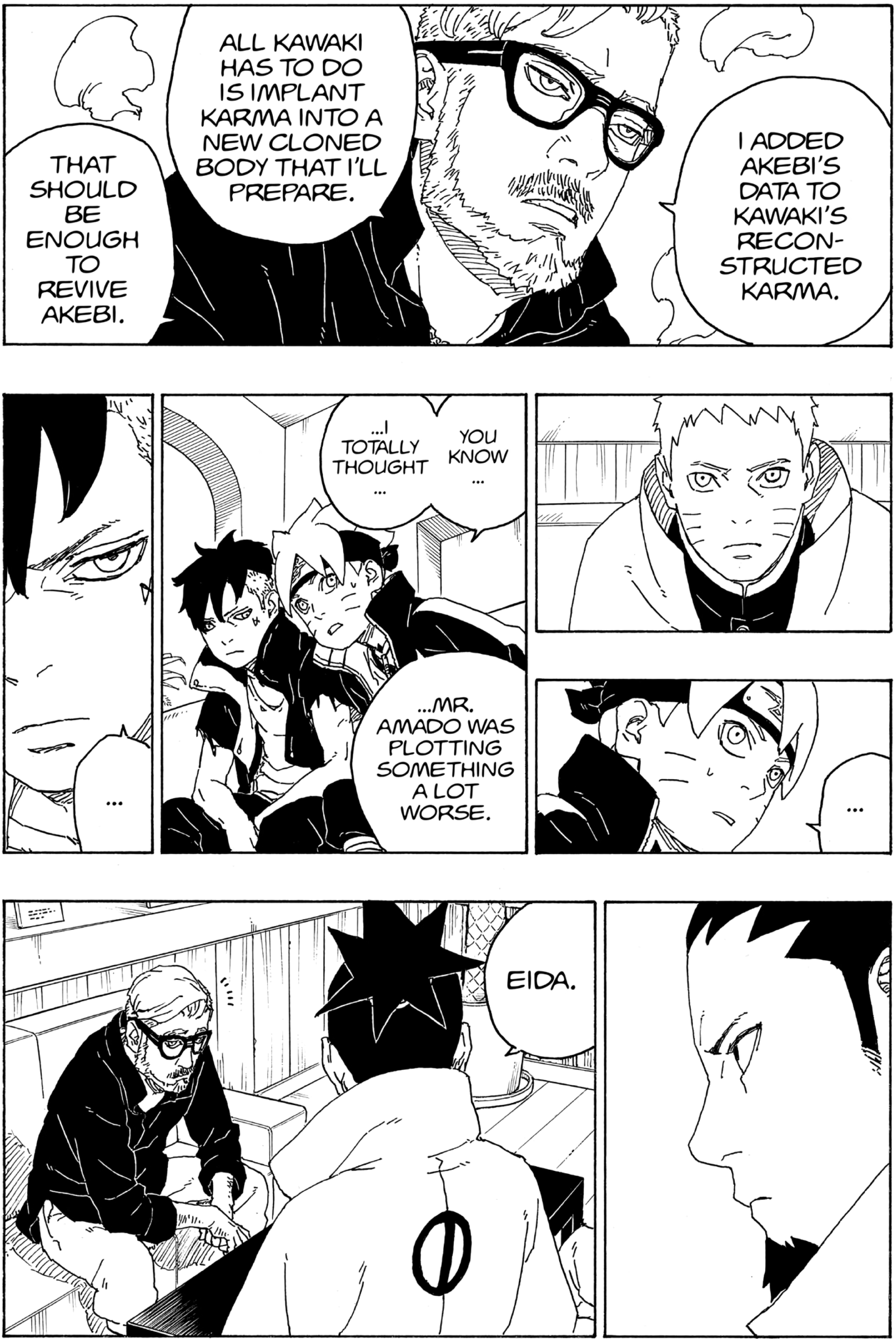

AND IT FINALLY ...
...HIT ME.
THAT MY DAUGHTER ...
...NO LONGER EXISTED.
THAT'S WHEN...

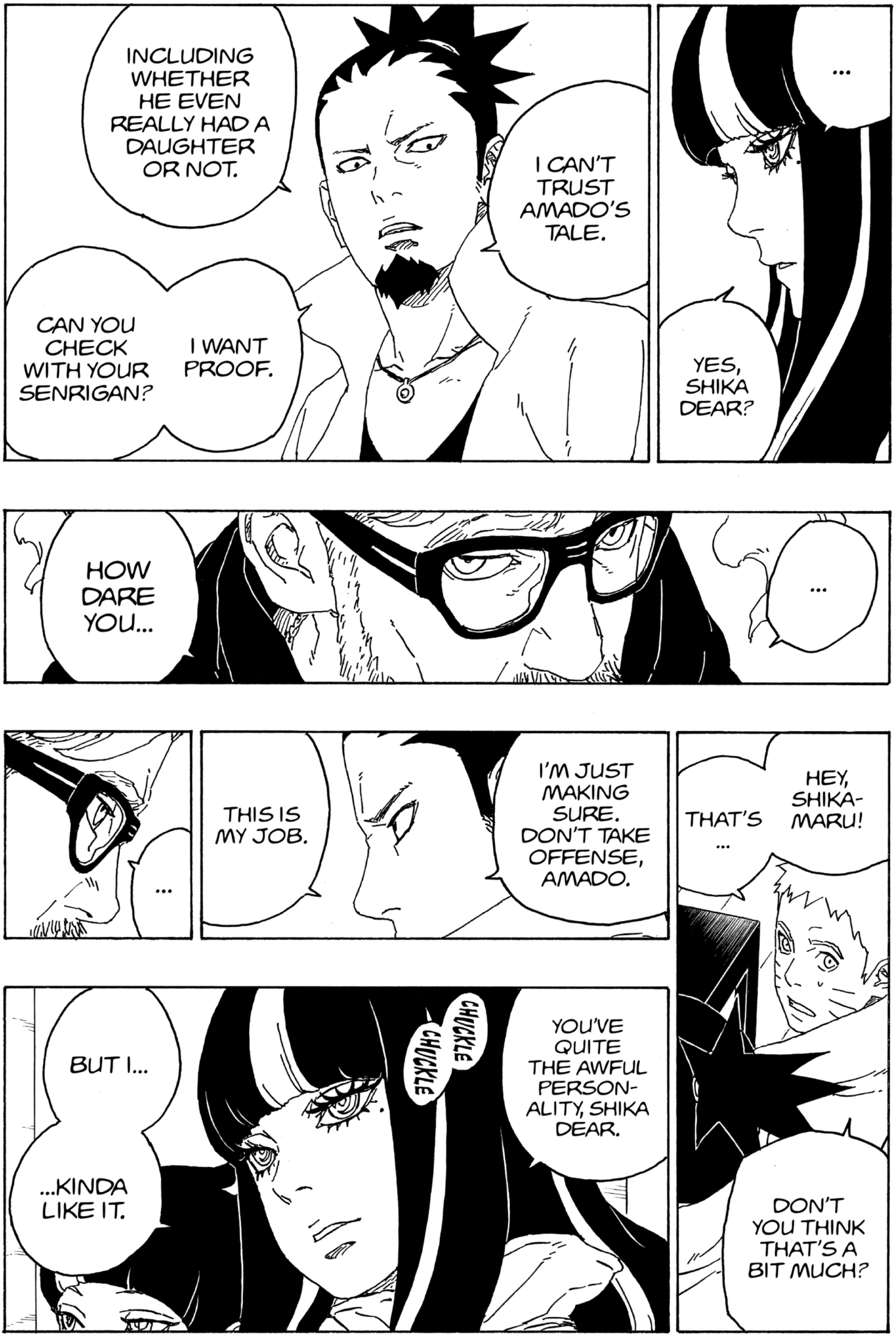

...HE APPEARED.
HE SAID...
...HE'D REUNITE ME WITH HER...
...IF I ASSISTED HIM.

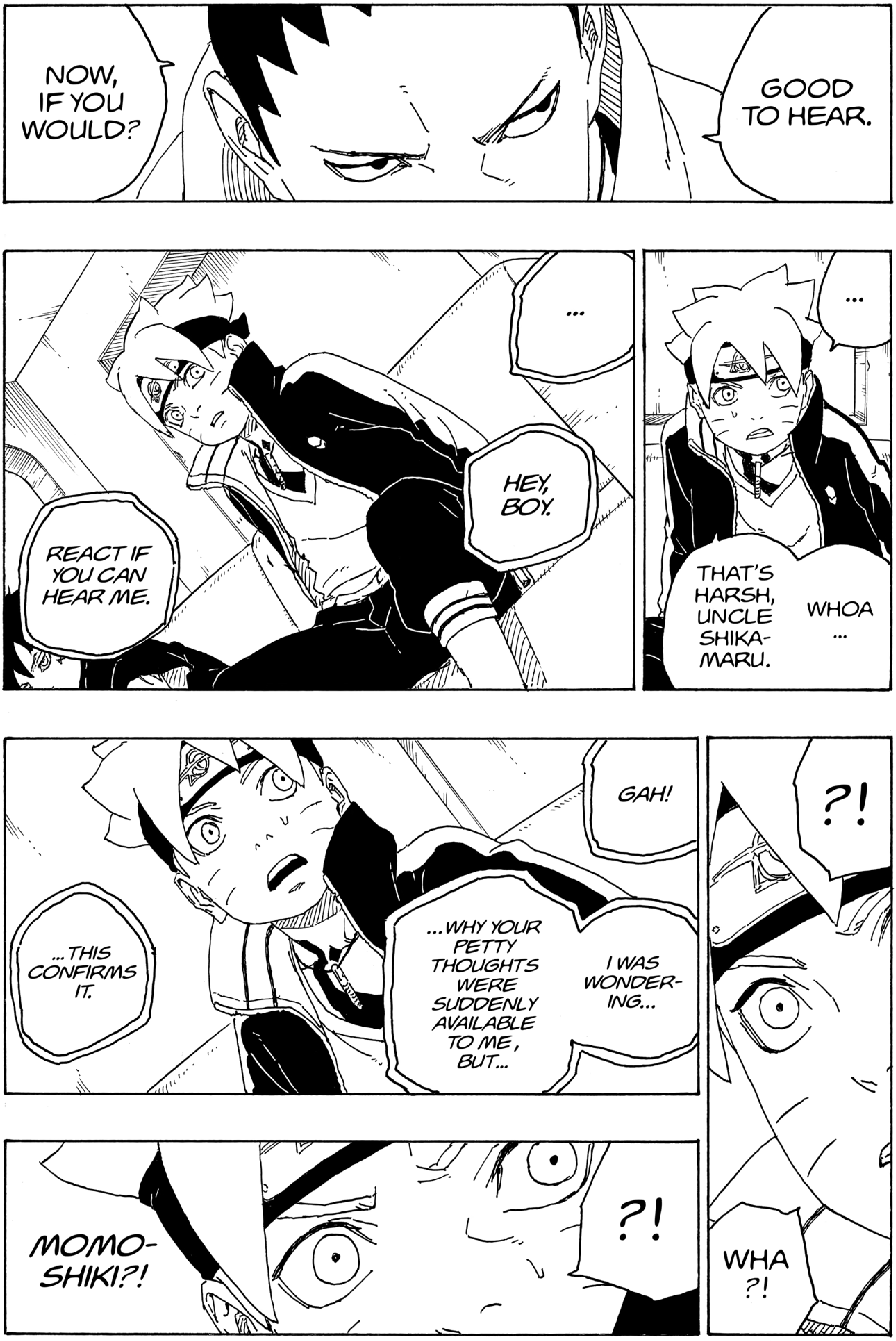

AS IN, OHTSUTSUKI ISSHIKI, HUH?
AND THAT WAS JIGEN...
I ALIGNED WITH KARA AS A LAST HOPE, NOT KNOWING...
...THAT HIS GOAL, THE CHAKRA FRUIT...
...WOULD COME AT THE COST OF THIS PLANET'S LIFE.
WHEN HIS OBJECTIVES WERE ACHIEVED...
...HE'D REWARD ME BY REVIVING MY DAUGHTER.
THAT WAS THE DEAL.
FULFILL KARA'S MISSION AND GET YOUR DAUGHTER BACK...
...BUT THE PLANET WOULD DIE.
WHAT AN UNTENABLE DECISION.
I WAS PREPARED TO DO ANYTHING FOR HER, BUT...
...WHAT'S THE POINT IF THERE'S NO PLANET TO LIVE ON?
SO YOU GAVE YOUR DAUGHTER UP...
...AND DECIDED TO TAKE ISSHIKI DOWN.
...

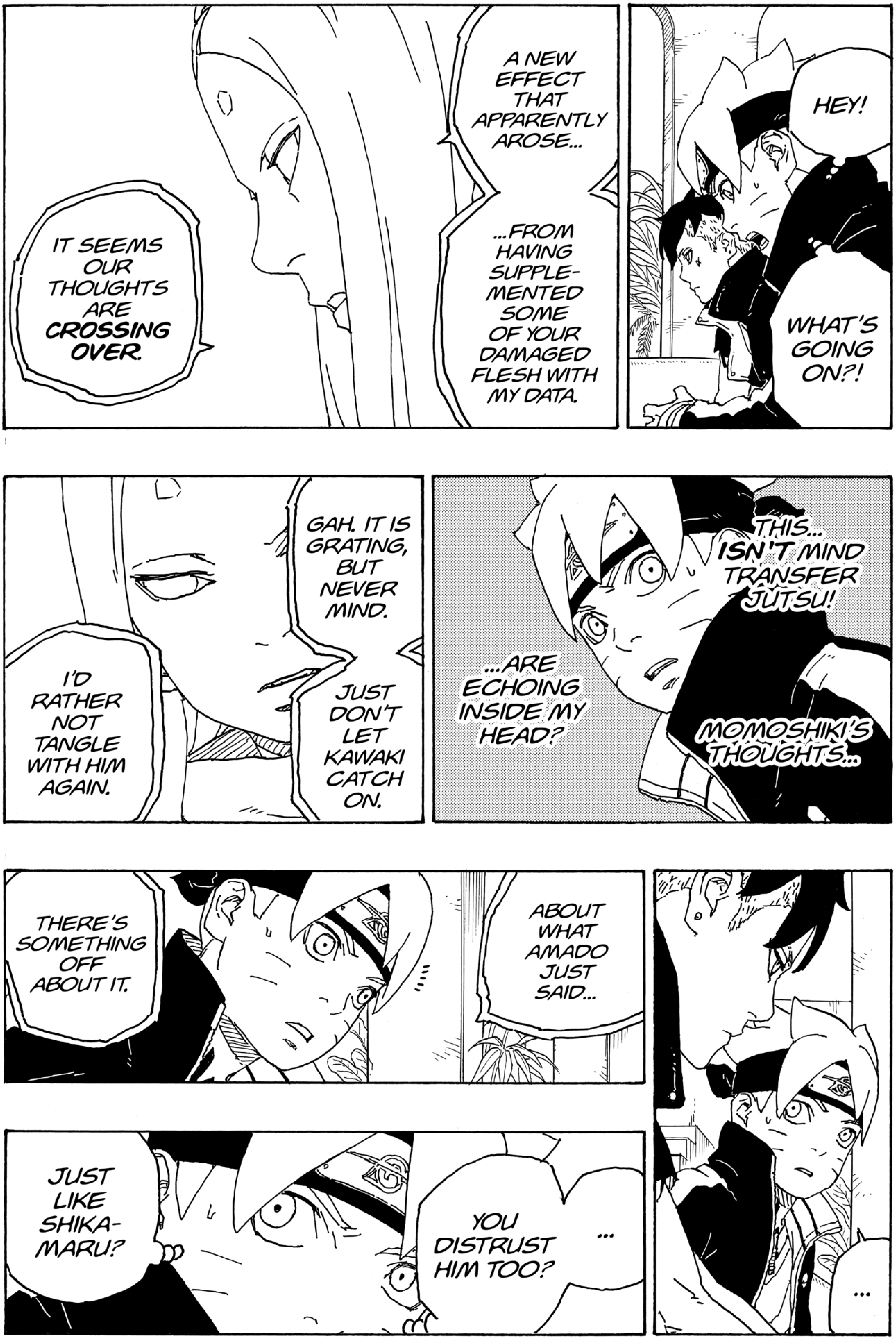

DON'T GET ME WRONG THOUGH.
I HAVEN'T GIVEN UP ON MY DAUGHTER AT ALL.
JIGEN NEVER SPECIFIED HOW HE WAS PLANNING TO REVIVE MY DAUGHTER.
IT'S EVEN POSSIBLE HE MAY NOT HAVE EVER INTENDED TO DO SO.
BUT AS I WORKED TOWARDS TAKING HIM DOWN, I DISCERNED...
...THE MECHANISM OF KARMIC RESURRECTION.
...
IT'S WHAT ISSHIKI WAS TRYING TO DO THROUGH VESSELS.
AND MY ATTEMPT TO REPRODUCE AKEBI USING A CLONE...
...WAS ALMOST IDENTICAL.

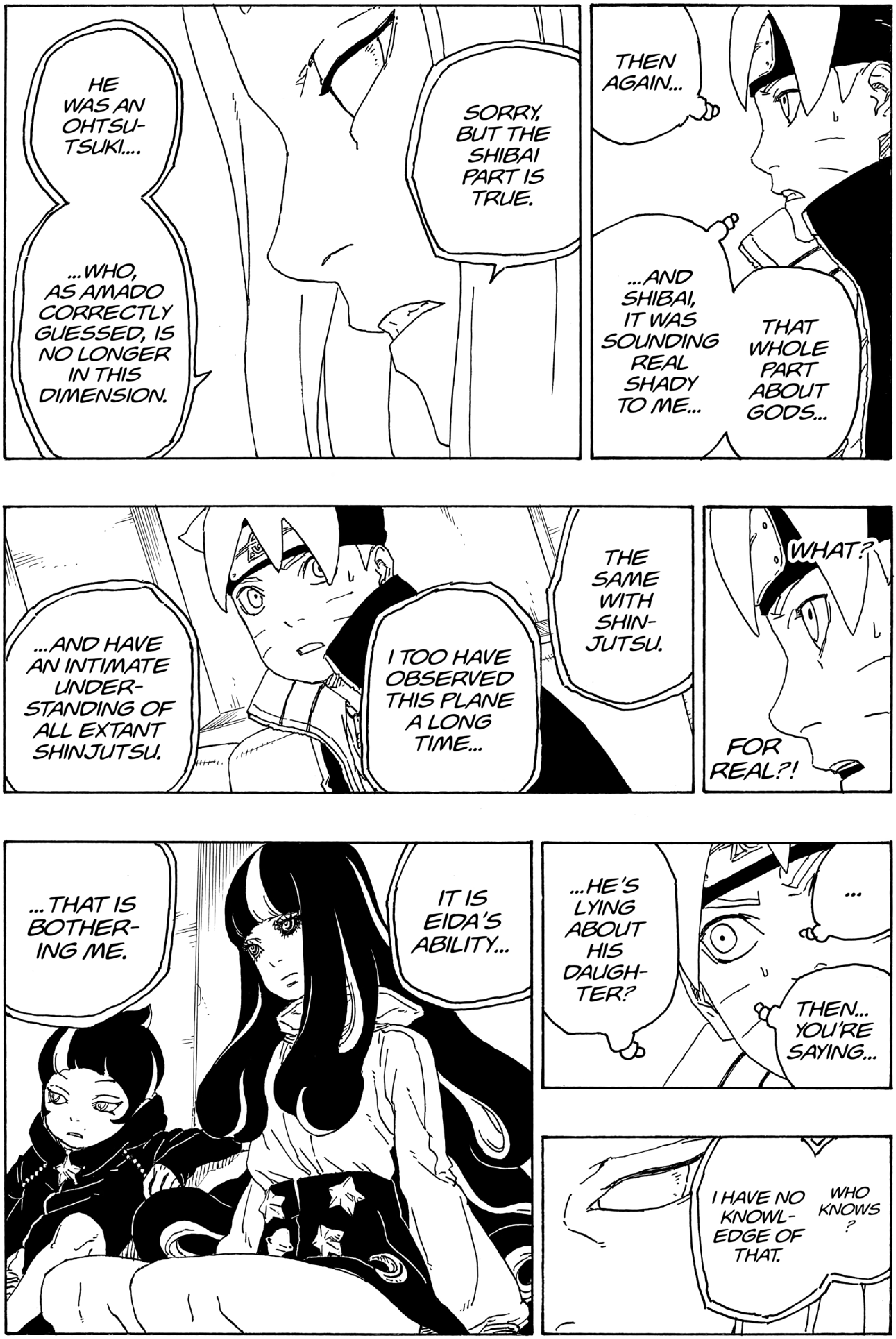

MY FAILED EFFORTS AT REPRODUCING PERSONALITY...
...WHICH CROSSED INTO THE DOMAIN OF GODS...
...WAS POSSIBLE ONLY WITH THE MIRACLE OF GODLY POWER...
...THE SHINJUTSU KARMA.
NOW I GET IT...
WHAT MR. AMADO WAS PLANNING...
...TO USE KAWAKI'S KARMA FOR.
...

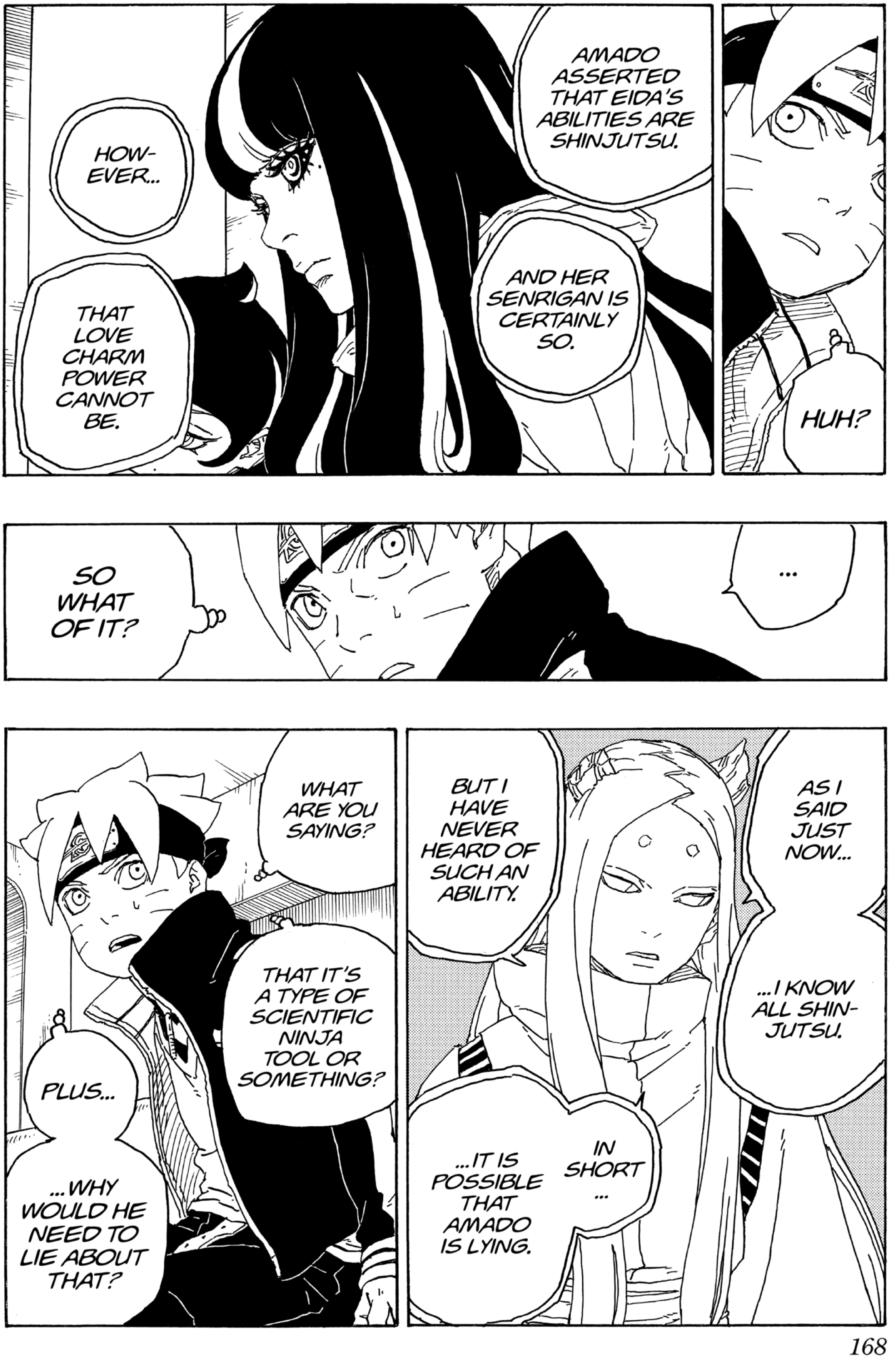

I ADDED AKEBI'S DATA TO KAWAKI'S RECONSTRUCTED KARMA.
ALL KAWAKI HAS TO DO IS IMPLANT KARMA INTO A NEW CLONED BODY THAT I'LL PREPARE.
THAT SHOULD BE ENOUGH TO REVIVE AKEBI.
...
YOU KNOW ...
...I TOTALLY THOUGHT ...
...MR. AMADO WAS PLOTTING SOMETHING A LOT WORSE.
...
EIDA.

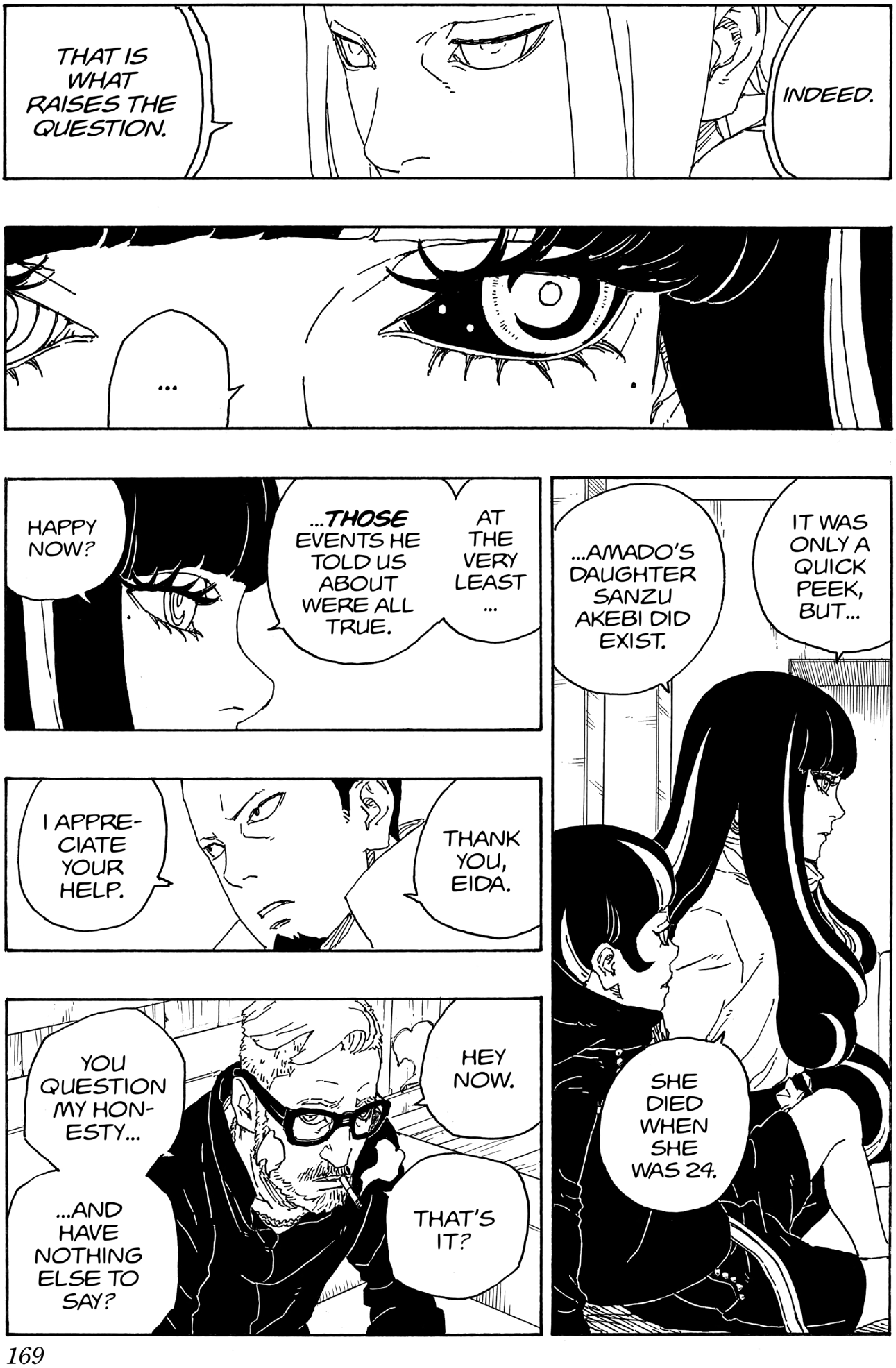

...
YES, SHIKA DEAR?
I CAN'T TRUST AMADO'S TALE.
INCLUDING WHETHER HE EVEN REALLY HAD A DAUGHTER OR NOT.
I WANT PROOF.
CAN YOU CHECK WITH YOUR SENRIGAN?
...
HOW DARE YOU...
HEY, SHIKAMARU!
THAT'S ...
I'M JUST MAKING SURE. DON'T TAKE OFFENSE, AMADO.
THIS IS MY JOB.
...
DON'T YOU THINK THAT'S A BIT MUCH?
YOU'VE QUITE THE AWFUL PERSONALITY, SHIKA DEAR.
CHUCKLE
CHUCKLE
BUT I...
...KINDA LIKE IT.

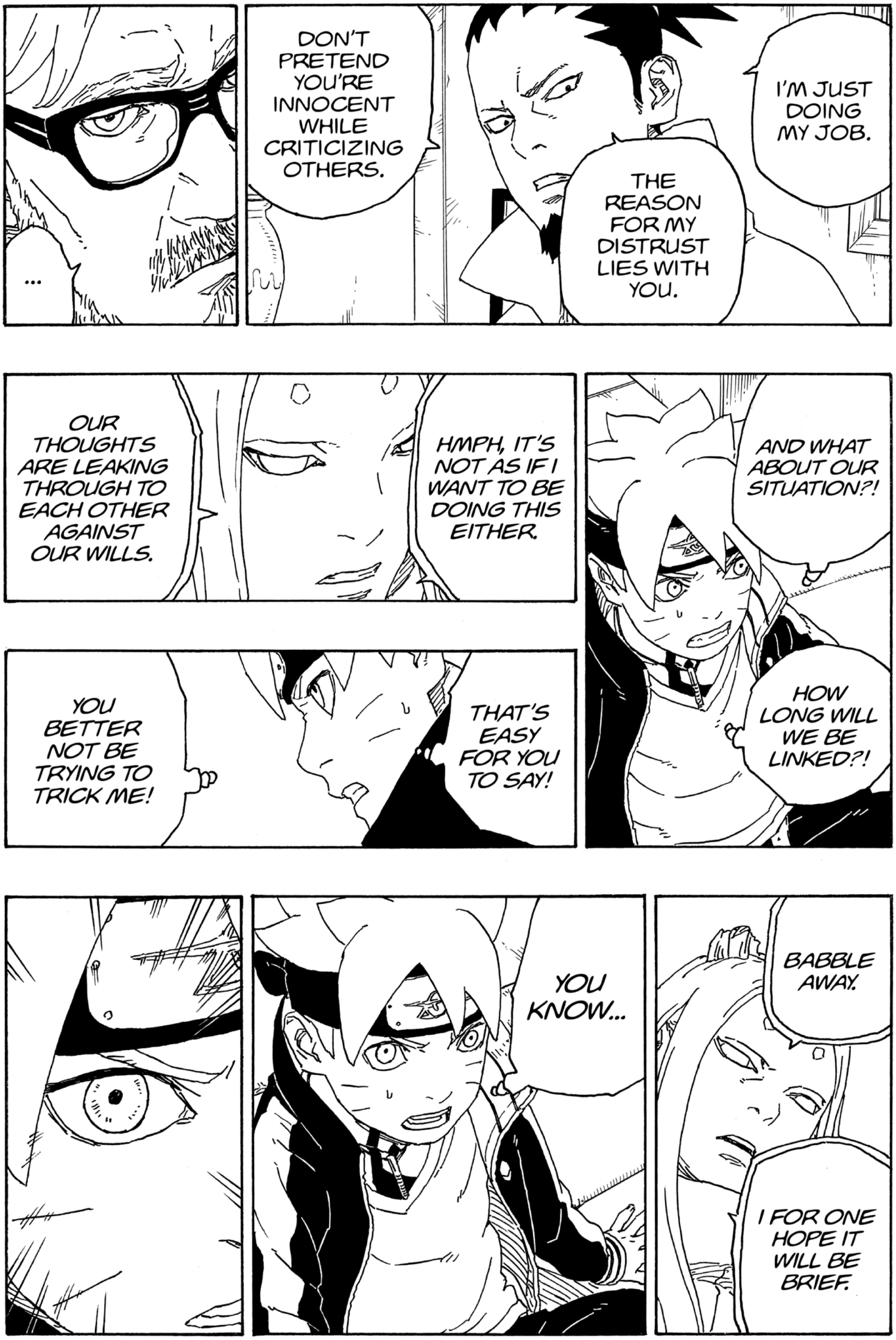

GOOD TO HEAR.
NOW, IF YOU WOULD?
...
WHOA ...
THAT'S HARSH, UNCLE SHIKAMARU.
...
HEY, BOY.
REACT IF YOU CAN HEAR ME.
GAH!
I WAS WONDERING...
...WHY YOUR PETTY THOUGHTS WERE SUDDENLY AVAILABLE TO ME, BUT...
...THIS CONFIRMS IT.
?!
WHA ?!
?!
MOMOSHIKI?!

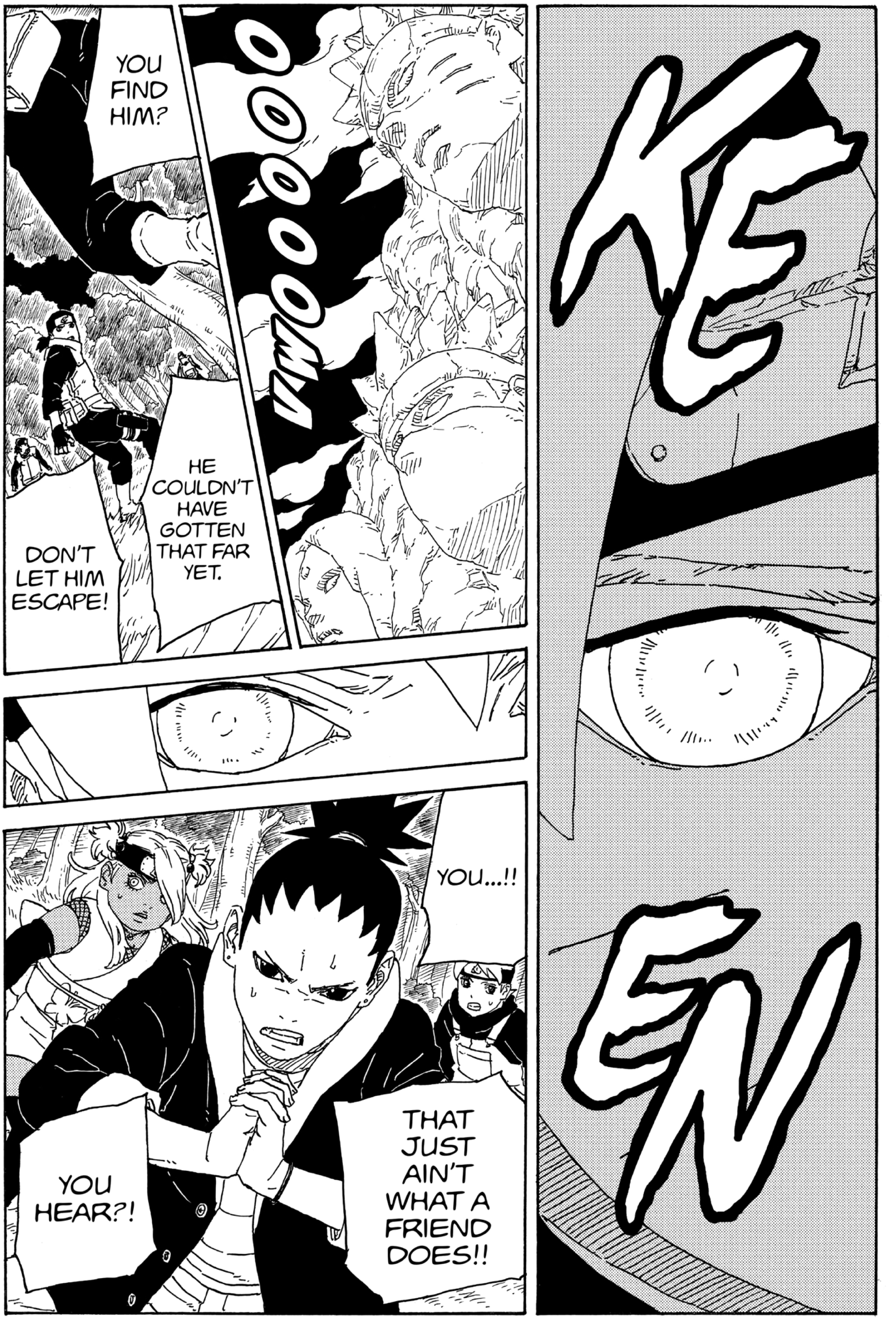

HEY!
WHAT'S GOING ON?!
A NEW EFFECT THAT APPARENTLY AROSE...
...FROM HAVING SUPPLEMENTED SOME OF YOUR DAMAGED FLESH WITH MY DATA.
IT SEEMS OUR THOUGHTS ARE **CROSSING OVER.**
MOMOSHIKI'S THOUGHTS...
...ARE ECHOING INSIDE MY HEAD?
THIS... **ISN'T** MIND TRANSFER JUTSU!
GAH. IT IS GRATING, BUT NEVER MIND.
JUST DON'T LET KAWAKI CATCH ON.
I'D RATHER NOT TANGLE WITH HIM AGAIN.
ABOUT WHAT AMADO JUST SAID...
THERE'S SOMETHING OFF ABOUT IT.
...
...
YOU DISTRUST HIM TOO?
JUST LIKE SHIKAMARU?

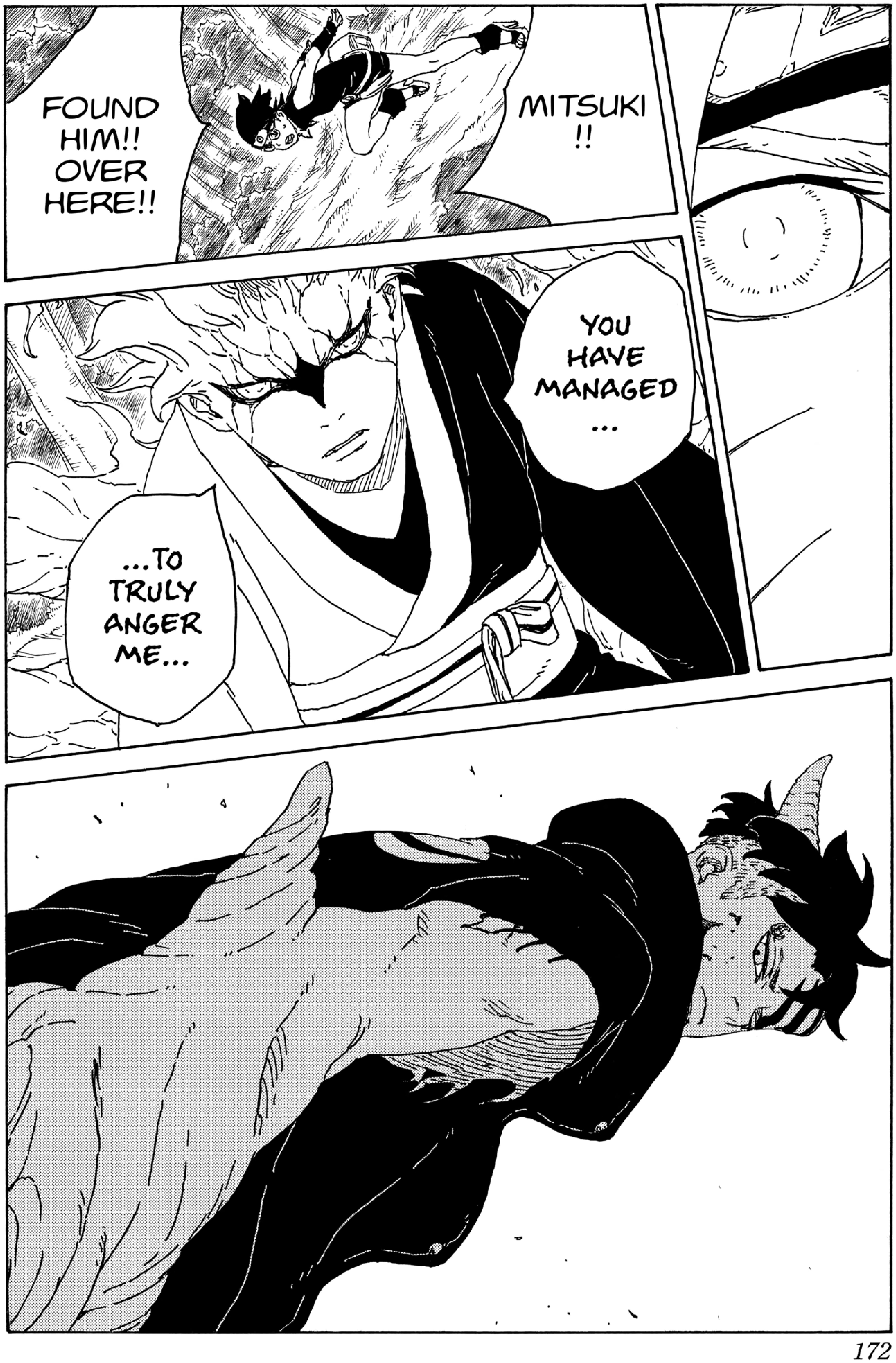

THEN AGAIN...
THAT WHOLE PART ABOUT GODS...
...AND SHIBAI, IT WAS SOUNDING REAL SHADY TO ME...
SORRY, BUT THE SHIBAI PART IS TRUE.
HE WAS AN OHTSUTSUKI....
...WHO, AS AMADO CORRECTLY GUESSED, IS NO LONGER IN THIS DIMENSION.
WHAT?
FOR REAL?!
THE SAME WITH SHINJUTSU.
I TOO HAVE OBSERVED THIS PLANE A LONG TIME...
...AND HAVE AN INTIMATE UNDERSTANDING OF ALL EXTANT SHINJUTSU.
...
THEN... YOU'RE SAYING...
...HE'S LYING ABOUT HIS DAUGHTER?
WHO KNOWS?
I HAVE NO KNOWLEDGE OF THAT.
IT IS EIDA'S ABILITY...
...THAT IS BOTHERING ME.

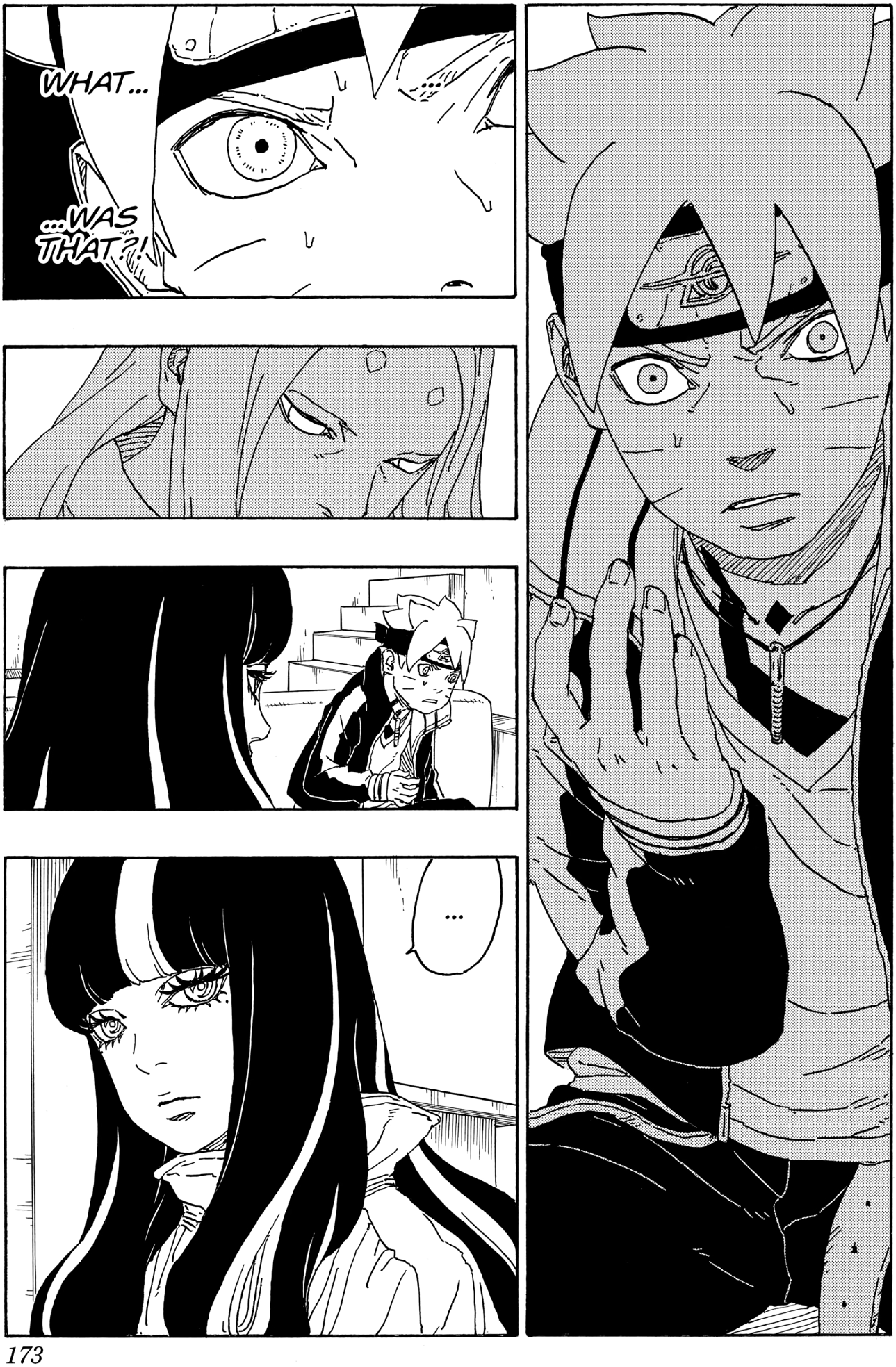

HUH?
AMADO ASSERTED THAT EIDA'S ABILITIES ARE SHINJUTSU.
AND HER SENRIGAN IS CERTAINLY SO.
HOW-EVER...
THAT LOVE CHARM POWER CANNOT BE.
...
SO WHAT OF IT?
AS I SAID JUST NOW...
...I KNOW ALL SHIN-JUTSU.
BUT I HAVE NEVER HEARD OF SUCH AN ABILITY.
IN SHORT...
...IT IS POSSIBLE THAT AMADO IS LYING.
WHAT ARE YOU SAYING?
THAT IT'S A TYPE OF SCIENTIFIC NINJA TOOL OR SOMETHING?
PLUS...
...WHY WOULD HE NEED TO LIE ABOUT THAT?


INDEED.
THAT IS WHAT RAISES THE QUESTION.
...
IT WAS ONLY A QUICK PEEK, BUT...
...AMADO'S DAUGHTER SANZU AKEBI DID EXIST.
SHE DIED WHEN SHE WAS 24.
AT THE VERY LEAST...
...**THOSE** EVENTS HE TOLD US ABOUT WERE ALL TRUE.
HAPPY NOW?
THANK YOU, EIDA.
I APPRECIATE YOUR HELP.
HEY NOW.
YOU QUESTION MY HONESTY...
THAT'S IT?
...AND HAVE NOTHING ELSE TO SAY?


I'M JUST DOING MY JOB.
THE REASON FOR MY DISTRUST LIES WITH YOU.
DON'T PRETEND YOU'RE INNOCENT WHILE CRITICIZING OTHERS.
...
AND WHAT ABOUT OUR SITUATION?!
HOW LONG WILL WE BE LINKED?!
HMPH, IT'S NOT AS IF I WANT TO BE DOING THIS EITHER.
OUR THOUGHTS ARE LEAKING THROUGH TO EACH OTHER AGAINST OUR WILLS.
THAT'S EASY FOR YOU TO SAY!
YOU BETTER NOT BE TRYING TO TRICK ME!
BABBLE AWAY.
I FOR ONE HOPE IT WILL BE BRIEF.
YOU KNOW...


KEEN
VWOOOOOOM
YOU FIND HIM?
HE COULDN'T HAVE GOTTEN THAT FAR YET.
DON'T LET HIM ESCAPE!
YOU...!!
THAT JUST AIN'T WHAT A FRIEND DOES!!
YOU HEAR?!


MITSUKI!!
FOUND HIM!! OVER HERE!!
YOU HAVE MANAGED...
...TO TRULY ANGER ME...


WHAT...
...WAS THAT?!
...